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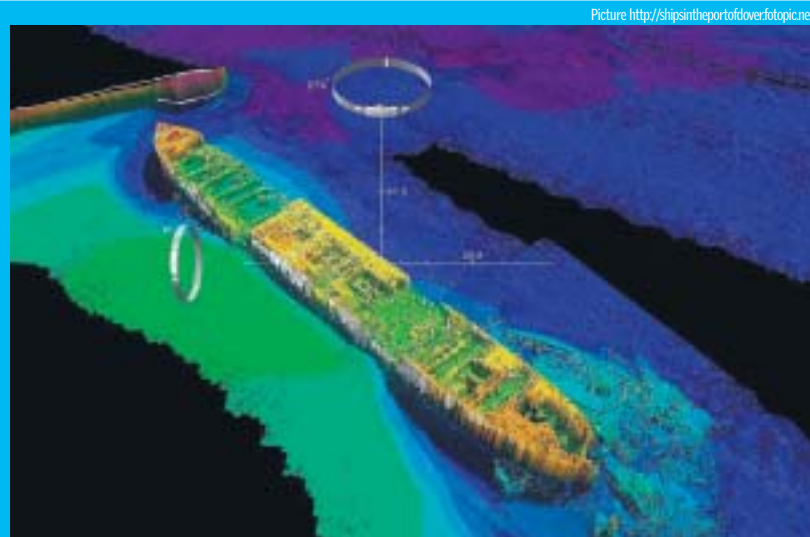


COLOUR SCAPE: Artist Penny Beardman splashes the paint in Dover. Search 'artist'

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ISSN 1753-115-2



Picture <http://shipsintheportofdovertopic.net/>

SALVAGING OF LOST SHIP

The long-forgotten SS Spanish Prince is revealed in its full glory as a multi-beam sonar image exposes the wreck of the former cargo ship.

The First World War blockship was sunk by the western entrance to Dover harbour as part of defence plans to protect against torpedoes and submarines.

Now, with the aid of detailed images such as this, the scuttled vessel is being salvaged and raised to the surface to improve navigation for large cruise-ships and ferries. The ten-week operation will see the hull cut into pieces before being lifted to the surface and then scrapped.

• FULL STORY SEE PAGE 3

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

HUNDREDS of jobs in Dover could be at risk as two ferry companies struggle to stay afloat.

Both P&O and LD Lines have sparked fears employees could be laid off as the companies toil against rival operators and Eurotunnel.

French ferry-operator LD Lines is removing its ship Norman Bridge from service on Monday, August 30. The company also said the future of the second ship on the route, Norman Trader, remained uncertain.

Norman Bridge will be transferred to the firm's new route between Gijon and Saint-Nazaire and will enter service on September 2.

A statement from LD Lines said: "Like all other ferry operators on the Dover Strait, LD Lines is experiencing a very depressed market, tough trading environment and the aggressive pricing policy from Eurotunnel, all affecting volumes.

"The market needs to rectify supply and demand balance to have a chance of becoming profitable again and ensure long-term survival of the ferry industry, particularly across the Dover Strait."

This news came on the back of revelations that P&O could cut jobs as part of money-saving measures. A leaked staff memo has fuelled these fears as it revealed internal assessments were being made.

In the note dispatched to employees, chief executive Helen Deeble said: "Trading remains tough right around the business. Our industry is still in the grip of strong recessionary pressures and our belief is that it is going to take a very long time before things return to normal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Barry the Baton drops into town on coastal relay

A DEDICATED team of volunteer runners are ferrying a relay baton around the coastline of the UK.

Barry the Baton passed through Dover last Wednesday on his epic journey, transported by runners known as Coasters.

The wooden marker travelled into the town as part of the Southend to Portsmouth leg of the relay, which began back in Blackpool on May 9.

The next section of the journey will see Barry travel from Dover to Hythe, before heading along the south Kent coast and, it is hoped, back to the starting point at Blackpool Tower by Saturday, October 9.

The task is influenced by comedian Eddie Izzard's achievement of 43 marathons in 52 days, which inspired the group Coasters GB to pledge to run around the country with their mascot Barry the Baton.

Runners from all across the country, including Dover, are invited to help the group complete their aim.

Sector coordinator for the Southend to Portsmouth stretch Mark Cage said: "We are making good progress on our stretch and everyone has a tale to tell about their time with (Barry) the baton."

Heroic efforts

"It's been a real pleasure being involved and has reinforced to me how strong the 'spirit of running' is around our country."

"We've had people travel long distances to get to the coast to take part, and some really heroic efforts from people to keep the relay going."

The Coasters range from part time joggers through to experienced ultra marathon runners who will each complete a section of the coastline as the baton is passed around the country.

Organiser Stu Prince said: "The event started off as an idea I put forward, rather tongue in cheek, on a runners forum."

"The question asked was, 'would



ON THE RUN: Four of the Coasters with Barry the Baton at Deal Pier. Left to right: Barabara Gambrell, Mark Ashmore, Cliff Stokes and David Bennett

it be possible to do a relay around the coast of Great Britain?"

"I expected quite a lot of chuckles and perhaps worse, when I posted the initial message."

"Instead, a few chairs were actually pulled up and questions asked. "The logistical nightmare of organising a relay of such magnitude was put forward too."

"However, amidst this noise, the coast was randomly divided into stretches and runners allocated."

"We had nearly 400 runners as May approached, however, there were massive untaken gaps, even in the initial stretches we were going to cover. But all have wanted to 'Do it for Barry'."

"A further beauty of this event is that you can still be part of it. Simply go to www.coastersgb.co.uk."

"It is free to take part and open to all abilities."

Following the completion of this relay, Mr Prince is looking at the idea of organising a similar event for the Olympic year in 2012.

Pedal to the finish in mountain bike races

THE FINAL of a four race mountain biking series takes place tomorrow at Fowlmead country park.

The Activ Fowlmeads Summer MTB Series 2010 reaches its conclusion of the sequence of races held under British Cycling rules.

All over 12s will be able to turn up on the day and compete, even if they have not previously raced in the series.

The centre opens at 5pm and junior races start at 6pm, with the senior competition kicking off at 7pm.

Online entry is £8 for adults and £4 for those 17 and under.

Registration can be made on the day, but will be more expensive.

For more information or to register, visit www.riderhq.com.

Man fined after drugs found hidden in shoe

FORMER financial adviser Alex Holmes didn't know what a small pack of cannabis was doing in his shoe, a court was told.

Holmes, 28, of Beresford Road, Dover, refused to comment after the cannabis and blue temazepam tablets were found on him. He had been stopped in his car near Herne Bay because officers thought he might have been drink-driving.

Julie Farbrace, prosecuting at Canterbury Magistrates Court, said: "He appeared edgy and nervous, so officers searched the car."

Holmes was fined £50 for possession of a class B drug and £50 for possessing the tablets.

He was ordered to pay £85 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

Automated system hits accuracy target

A VOICE-operated warehouse system has boosted efficiency for P&O Ferries.

The new voice directed picking method has been introduced at the ferry operator's Dover warehouse.

It allows for a quicker response to demand so the right stock gets onboard ships in the quickest and most efficient manner possible.

The new system allows P&O to run a more automated warehouse, providing benefits during the peak summer months.

The Zetes 3i Voice system supports 29 workers responsible for picking an average of 150 units per hour, up to 114,000 items per week.

The introduction has seen a 20 per cent efficiency improvement and reduced errors, helping the operator reach its 99.5 per cent accuracy target.

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Engineers move in near harbour

A SPECIALIST engineering company has opened its new office in Dover.

Hamworthy plc, which focuses on the marine and energy markets, has located its new premises in Channel View Road.

The new branch will focus upon services and sales for the Krystallon arm of the company, which pioneered gas scrubber technology.

It is the proximity to the P&O head office, as well as the expertise in the shipping industry, that has led to the company locating in Dover.

Head of Hamworthy Krystallon Sigurd Jenssen said: "The wealth of experience that we have found made Dover the natural choice when it

came to establishing a new office.

"We were looking for an area with significant shipping infrastructure and experience. There is a large base of well qualified people who know about the ships, how they are run and organised."

One of the first ships successfully fitted with the exhaust technology which reduces the pollutants released into the atmosphere was the P&O Pride of Kent.

The exhaust gas seawater scrubbers remove significant amounts of sulphur and particulates from entering the air, both of which contribute to acid rain and health problems.

Similar systems have also been

installed onto the Holland American line cruise ship Zaandam and land-based facilities in Greece and Japan.

Mr Jenssen said: "The installation on the Pride of Kent was commissioned at the end of 2005."

"This is driven by legislation and in 2015 the legislation kicks in. This gives us a few years for developments. Eventually we'll look at developing the business and we could take on 10 to 20 people by 2015."

"At the moment we are focussed on ferries, but there is a much bigger shipping sector."

"There are more than 40,000 ships which will be affected by the regulation and that looks promising."

Harbour blockship to be raised from the sea

Work will clear path for ferries

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

A FIRST World War blockship is being lifted from the seabed after more than 90 years.

The SS Spanish Prince is being removed from the Western entrance to Dover harbour to improve access.

The former cargo ship was scuttled in 1917 as part of defence plans to protect the harbour from German U-boats and torpedoes.

She was sold to the admiralty in 1914 after being damaged when running aground earlier that year.

The decision was taken to convert the vessel in the dry dock into a blockship.

Four gantry towers constructed with steel girders more than 20m above the deck replaced the superstructure. These allowed cables and netting to be attached and run under the waterline to another ship on the opposite side of the entrance, the Livonian, protecting the docks from submarine hazards.

The gantry platforms were removed following the war, but the hull was left on the sea floor.

Almost a century later, the remains of the



SALVAGING THE BLOCKSHIP: Waasland and Gaverland excavation vessels are at work on the still submerged SS Spanish Prince in Dover Harbour, inset is a painting by Sir John Lavery showing blockship gantries at Dover in 1918

hull are being salvaged to improve access at the Western Docks to allow larger ferries and cruise ships easier access.

The complex operation is made more difficult by severely limited visibility, which means removal crews are relying on feel and a multi-beam sonar image.

Once the wreck has been raised, the metal will be removed via barges and scrapped.

Before the work began a spokesman for the salvage contractors said: "Herbosch Kiere

Marine Contractors Ltd has been awarded the contract for the salvage and partial removal of the blockship Spanish Prince, an ex cargo ship which was scuttled by the Admiralty during the first World War.

"We will use our multi-purpose barge Waasland and speciality lifting and cutting equipment for this contract, the ship will be cut up in situ before being raised from the sea bed."

The removal work began on Wednesday, June 16, and is expected to last 10 weeks.

Ferry performance a 'serious concern'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

As a result, all of our sectors are struggling at present."

The memo added: "This attack, in the form of a price war, emanates primarily from Eurotunnel, which has slashed its freight rates to win back the market share it lost to us after the tunnel fire in the autumn of 2008..."

"The squeeze also applies to our Short Sea tourist business, where ferry competitors with lower costs than ours are constantly reducing their prices.

"This all means we are being forced to reduce costs throughout the business in order to be able to compete.

"It is therefore important I highlight to you that our current performance is of serious concern and is going to require urgent attention."

The statement concludes by saying an assessment will take place in preparation for a budget review due to be made later this year.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Dover Castle is coming under siege. Search 'siege'

TV cheats are caught out

LICENCE fee-evaders in Dover have cheated their way out of almost £21,000 so far this year.

In the first six months of 2010, 144 homeowners have been caught not paying the licence fee in Dover.

Across Kent, hundreds of viewers have been detected and fined, with 186 in Folkestone, 161 in Canterbury and 229 in Ashford all being caught.

These figures come as recently released statistics show more than 200,000 people across the UK have been convicted for not paying their licence for the first half of this year.

The average evasion rate across Britain remains at a low of just over five per cent.

TV Licensing spokesperson Ian Fannon said: "The vast majority of people in Folkestone and Dover pay their licence fee, and to be fair to those who pay, we have to be firm with those who attempt to get away without paying.

"We take TV Licence evasion very seriously and, while we give people every opportunity to pay, we will not hesitate to prosecute if people continue to break the law.

"We do understand that some people may find it difficult to pay their licence fee in one go, which is why we offer numerous ways to spread the cost."

Anyone watching TV illegally risks a fine of up to £1,000. See www.tvlicensing.co.uk/info.

Jobseekers figures on the decrease as recession eases off

UNEMPLOYMENT figures have fallen as more people are heading back to work as the economic recession appears to be easing its grip on Dover.

Statistics released by Kent County Council show a drop in the number of residents claiming Jobseekers allowance of nearly six per cent in Dover.

There were 89 fewer people signing on in June this year compared to the previous month.

The total number currently out of work in the town stands at 2,045, 4.3 per cent less than at the same point in 2009. Dover's total population out of work stands at 3.2 per cent, which is below the national average of 3.6.

Dover District Council cabinet member for economy and special projects Frederick Scales said: "We are very pleased to see this drop in unemployment levels in Dover.

"We continue to work hard on a committed growth programme and to bring forward opportunities for employment, housing and regeneration.

"Although these remain difficult times for everyone, we continue to work with all partners to maximise opportunities, and we are already seeing encouraging signs for investment in the future, with proposals such as the recent application by Anssems at the White Cliffs Business Park.

"Following important work already undertaken, including having Growth Point Status and our Local Development Framework in place, we have set firm foundations for growth, and we are well placed for the future."

Across Kent, there was a fall in the number of people claiming jobseekers allowance of 463, a fall of 1.4 per cent compared to June last year.

Dartford, Thanet and Tonbridge and Malling all showed a slight increase in the number of people out of work compared to June, with 0.1, 0.1 and a 1.4 increase respectively.

Shepway, despite showing a slight increase of 16 more people in work, had more than 100 people unemployed compared to 2009.

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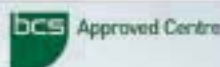
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WAY TO ROW: The dragonboat race at this year's Dover Regatta, which attracted thousands of visitors once again

Weather fails to put dampener on regatta weekend

LESS than favourable conditions failed to prevent thousands of spectators descending on to the seafront for the 12th Dover Regatta last weekend.

Numbers may have been slightly affected by the wind and rain but the event was still hailed as a success by organisers with more than 15,000 people thought to have visited over the weekend.

The regatta was officially opened during the raising of the flag ceremony, conducted by the Dover Sea Cadets.

The stands ranged from sweets through to the French market, community groups, a balloon stall and a rollercoaster simulator.

The beach party on the Just Unique Roadshow stage was hosted by Gordon Skeggs who, ably assisted by his team and local singer Louise Orfilla, kept the crowds entertained together with some up-and-coming local talent in the form of Jade and Kyra.

It was also the first year where the new wave seafront was in place for the regatta, providing families with a route onto the shingle to watch the dragon boat and the lifeguard dog demonstrations.

The annual dragon boat race was won by Wood Butchers, ahead of Team Jenner and a weary RNLI team which was feeling the effects of an early morning callout.

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

On the promenade, the Newfoundland dogs proved to be a hit, while live music was provided by a blues band on stage.

The newly-finished Dover Sports Centre provided welcome refuge from the wind and rain before the sun broke through later in the day.

A helicopter provided aerial tours of the town, circling above the docks and travelling along the coast.

The RNLI helicopter was unable to make the search and rescue demonstration as it was called out on an emergency, but the RNLI did exhibit the capabilities of the Severn class lifeboat and the smaller inshore lifeboat from Walmer.

The Saturday was rounded off with a firework show by A J Pyrotechnics of Dover, which lit up the night sky above the docks.

The Sunday saw stronger winds which forced the cancellation of both the rowing race and the parachute display.

The Lord Warden was on hand with the Mayor of Dover, Sue Jones, to take the salute from the parade of sail which saw yachts once again take to the water, led around the harbour by the Port of Dover Police Rib, Delta 99.

The regatta ended with the traditional Songs of Praise courtesy of Christians Together in Dover and incorporating the Blessing of the Seas.

Czech jailed for smuggling immigrants

A MAN has been jailed after smuggling six people through Dover in the back of a van.

The 32-year-old from the Czech Republic has been sentenced to two years in prison at Canterbury Crown court for attempting to smuggle six Vietnamese citizens into the UK.

Zdenek Vildner was pulled over by UK Border Agency (UKBA) officers as he entered the country in his Mercedes van.

He claimed he was transporting band equipment from Paris to Stansted airport.

Officer unloaded the van and found six black boxes that appeared to be stage speakers but on closer inspection revealed to be concealing five men and a woman.

Mr Vildner was arrested and interviewed while the illegal stowaways were interviewed before being sent back the same day.

On sentencing on Thursday, July 29, the court recommended that Mr Vildner

should be deported after serving his imprisonment.

Head of the UK Border Agency Local Immigration Team in Kent, Karyn Dunning, said: "Vildner set out to make money by abusing the immigration system and put people's lives in danger in the way he concealed them in his vehicle.

"This is a true success for us – an unscrupulous man is behind bars and would-be illegal immigrants have been stopped from entering the UK.

"Day-in, day out, the Kent Local Immigration Team is acting on intelligence supplied by the community to prevent abuse of the immigration system.

"I urge anyone with information to report it to us."

To report an immigration crime, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/report-immigration-crime.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big rise in visits to castle

THE attraction of Dover Castle is as strong as ever with recent figures showing a dramatic increase in the number of visitors.

There has been a rise of 35 per cent in the number of people visiting the historic castle this summer (April 1 to August 1) compared with last year.

Since the reopening of the Grand Tower at the start of August last year, more than 355,000 people have come to the attraction.

Dover castle was keen to attract a bigger family audience and the latest statistics reveal there has been a 14 per cent rise in the amount of family groups.

English Heritage membership at the castle has also increased with more than 13,000 membership cards sold, a jump of 78 per cent.

Sales and marketing manager, Louise Dando, said: "All the research and investment we put into the opening of the Great Towers is clearly paying off.

"With family events and activities throughout August and themed activities over autumn and winter, we expect visitor numbers to continue to grow."

School turns on turbine

A MILITARY school has taken the fight to climate change by installing a wind turbine.

The Duke of Yorks School in Dover has got its grid-connected turbine up and running.

The eco-windmill, is the first to be installed on the Defence estate and was installed by contractor PriDE.

It will provide the school with a long-term source of sustainable electricity and it creates an educational tool for the school's students.

Over the course of its lifetime, the turbine is expected to generate 269,000kWh of energy, saving 145 tonnes of carbon dioxide and saving the school a total of £27,000.

The fair is coming to town

FORREST'S Amusements Fun Fair is heading into Pencester Gardens today and will be there until Sunday (August 21).

The fair, which is making its annual visit to Dover, was established in 1889 and is the largest travelling fair based in Kent.

Visitors will be able to go on the dodgems, the waltzer, the cage and the wild thing.

There will also be a selection of children's rides including slides, inflatable disco domes and jungle play areas.

Hot and cold refreshments will be available on site.

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Thanet's Live Music Scene



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Friday 20th August
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Saturday 21st August
Jeepster
The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Thursday 26th August
Police Squad
Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
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Friday 27th August
Job Knockey
The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 28th August
DJ
Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
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Breed
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Sunday 29th August
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Saturday 4th September
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Language test for new immigrants

THE date that compulsory English tests for migrants come into force has been announced by the Minister of State for Immigration.

All non-EU citizens applying to enter the country will have to prove they are able to speak and understand the language from November 29 this year.

Once introduced, the new law will force any applicants from outside Europe to pass an English test before they will be granted a visa to stay in the country.

The rules will include anyone applying to be the husband, wife or civil partner of any British national or somebody who is settled in the country.

The tests will be compulsory for people living within the UK as well as overseas visa-applicants.

Integrate

The Minister of State for Immigration, Damian Green, said: "The new rules will help ensure that migrant spouses are able to participate in British life from the outset and integrate more easily into wider UK society."

Another announcement from the UK Border Agency is that it is set to abolish the certificate-approval scheme.

The initiative was designed to force anyone in the UK subject to immigration control to apply for the certificate before marrying or entering a civil partnership.

Due to changes following legal rulings, the system is no longer effective at preventing sham marriages. To repeal the act, a remedial act under the Human Rights Act has been laid in Parliament.

The certificate-approval scheme is likely to be abolished completely later this year or early in 2011.

Cruisers are opting to spend more time here

■ BY NICK AMES

TOURISM in the county has had a bumper summer, according to figures released by Visit Kent.

Statistics for June show more cruise-passengers at Dover are spending time in the county while joining and leaving their ships.

The tourist-information centres have seen a 10 per cent increase in enquiries from people booking tickets, seeking accommodation and finding out about local attractions.

Larger hotels have seen a 6 per cent increase in visitors, while smaller bed-and-breakfasts saw a 1 per cent increase.

June also saw a 7 per cent rise in the number of visitors to attractions, while the same amount also took advantage of cross-Channel services.

The business and conference sector also saw a 10 per cent increase in trade, partially due to companies rescheduling bookings that were disrupted earlier in the year due to the volcanic ash cloud.

The chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said: "This is excellent and very welcome news."

"The start of the 2010 was difficult – not least because the weather did not favour our many outdoor attractions and coastal resorts.



NATURAL APPEAL: Lydden Downs near Dover – the importance of Kent's landscape to its economy is becoming clearer

"The warmer weather has seen people flocking to the coast and our Blue Flag beaches to enjoy the summer sunshine and savouring our splendid gardens and historic houses.

"The market overall is still highly competitive and challenging, particularly for our cross-Channel service-providers and our hotels and guest houses.

"Our excellent and varied attractions make Kent and Medway ideal for local and London people choosing to enjoy a staycation this summer.

"Following the launch of our major advertising campaign – Kent Contemporary – we are

also seeing a marked increase in interest from visitors to London thinking of heading out of the city to enjoy the Garden of England.

"I am particularly delighted that more cruise-passengers are taking the time to enjoy our county as this has been a key aim of the Visit Kent Cruise Partnership working closely with county attractions, transport-providers and, of course, the Port of Dover.

"Furthermore, business confidence is growing. At least half of our serviced accommodation-providers are now expecting to be performing better in the coming three months than for the same period last year."



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QUESTION & ANSWER

DAVE LEGG



Q Tell us a bit about yourself

A I've lived in Dover for five years after moving here from Thanet. I enjoy working on websites and dream about retiring after inventing the next big online craze. Until then I'll keep working for the UK Border Agency.

Q Briefly describe the Dover Locals website

A Dover Locals is a forum that allows residents to come and discuss issues, view events in the area and sell or recycle items. On top of that we have general chat areas, an arcade to play games and a gallery to share photos. We also host the Dover Locals Yearly Awards, when members can vote in categories such as Best Restaurant or Best Local Event.

Q What was the inspiration behind the web page?

A In 2007 I was searching for somewhere to talk about a local problem, but the only forum around was closed. So I thought I would try my hand at setting one up. It didn't take long after creating the site that members started joining and the forum proved a hit.

Q How difficult was it start up the site from scratch?

A The hardest part was choosing the name for the site. I think I had a short-list of

about 20 names before Dover Locals was finally decided on. After the name was chosen, setting the site up wasn't overly difficult as I had some previous experience. However, spreading the word and getting people to visit the site was the next big hurdle.

Q What type of topics are discussed in the forums?

A Everything and anything. We currently have members talking about issues such as the Olympic torch coming through Dover and the new hospital in Buckland. We have general chat sections on the site where anything unrelated to Dover can be discussed, too.

Q Why should residents get involved with a site like this?

A It's a great way of getting in the community spirit. Residents coming together to help each other, sharing information and having a good old chat. We have a wide variety of members including councillors, organisers of the carnival and regatta and leaders of groups such as Dover Operatic & Dramatic Society and Dover War Memorial Project.

Q How has the rise of 'superpower' networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter affected Dover Locals?

A I would say they have helped Dover Locals as you can register on Dover Locals just by using your Facebook account, so it makes the entire process a lot easier. We've never seen a

decline in activity that has been attributed to any of the networking sites. We all have different things to offer and I'm sure that's why we have remained successful.

Q How many members has the site had, and do you see this growing in the future?

A We currently have more than 930 members and a total of 65,102 posts. Membership is pretty steady and I can only see the site growing in the future.

Q What are your plans for the future of the site?

A I have so many plans for Dover Locals, it is just a struggle trying to find the time to do everything. I think my next step will be to add a directory of services/shops/restaurants and so on which will provide details and allow members to add their comments.

Q What do you like to do in your free time?

A In my free time I enjoy being with the family and going on long walks around the coast to take in the views and sea air. I think we are extremely lucky to live in such a beautiful place which is often taken for granted.

It's not until everyone's gone to bed that I get time to sit down and work on my websites, which at present is about five sites.

• See www.doverlocals.co.uk to find out more

Q & A

The creator of the popular Dover Locals website talks to **Mathew Beech** about the inspiration behind the forum, how it has become a big success in the area and what he intends to do online in the future

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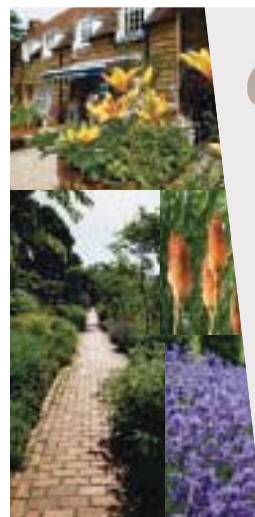
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VIP ferry ride for colourful winners

SHOOLCHILDREN were presented with VIP ferry tickets after winning a competition.

Pupils from Goodnestone primary school, near Canterbury, welcomed the DFDS Seaways mascot, Captain Jester, into their school to award the prizes.

The special prizes awarded by the Dover-Dunkirk ferry captain went to 10-year-olds Dragos Culica, Anya Falconer and Evelyn Woodland.

All three won the tickets after entering the company's Operation Dynamo colouring competition.

Each winner was given a VIP ticket for a crossing to Dunkirk for a car and up to four passengers. Everyone who entered the contest received a goody-bag.

Pilots run tests on plane of the future

A REVOLUTIONARY plane has been tested over Dover.

The Gulfstream 450 was put through its paces as the pilot trialled a new flight-deck display.

Honeywell International pilot John Tuten and co-pilot Paul Mrocka were trying out what has been labelled the cockpit of the future.

The innovative system has been designed to improve safety and fuel-efficiency by enabling a straighter and shorter flight-path to be followed.

The Synthetic Vision System converts flight data into a three-dimensional image of what is outside of the plane.

This will allow the captain to see clearly, even if there is zero visibility outside.

Call for centre to keep memories of The Few alive

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A BATTLE of Britain pilot has backed plans for an education centre to be built in Kent so the confused Prime Minister can come and brush up on his history.

It comes after David Cameron's embarrassing slip in calling Britain a "junior partner" to the United States during the Second World War air battle against Nazi Germany in the summer of 1940 – despite the US not entering the war until December 1941.

In the furious backlash since the gaffe, Mr Cameron has been accused of forgetting the heroics of those who repelled the Luftwaffe.

Now, the trust behind the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel-le-Ferne has renewed its appeal for help in raising money for an education centre so future generations can avoid similar mistakes.

The centre will be designed as a living-history resource using film and technology to re-create the historic events of 1940.

Wing Commander Bob Foster, who was just 20 when he took to the skies of Kent to defend his country from invasion, said it was

clear such a centre is needed. "We didn't know it at the time, but the Battle of Britain played a huge role in this nation's history and it's important future generations should be able to understand and remember the events of 1940," said the 90-year-old.

"The fact even the Prime Minister can get confused about the history of such an important conflict makes it clear to me that this hi-tech learning centre will be a welcome addition to the national memorial at Capel-le-Ferne."

Opportunity

The memorial was the setting for the 70th anniversary commemorations on July 11 this year when 5,000 people gathered on the cliff-top to remember the British and Allied forces who fought between July 10 and October 31, 1940.

During the battle, just under 3,000 Allied airmen took to the skies – with some 550 never to return.

The memorial trust chairman, Richard Hunting CBE, said the education centre – which aims to give visitors an opportunity to



CLANGER: David Cameron made an embarrassing blunder

experience what it was like to be one of The Few – will help politicians avoid potentially embarrassing slip-ups.

While he accepted that Mr Cameron's comment was an unfortunate mistake, he believes the facility will ensure future generations better understand the significance of the Battle of Britain.

"The youngest of our veterans – 19 of whom joined us on July 11 – is now approaching 90 and we won't have them with us forever," he said.

"When we can no longer rely on their memories, young people will need an exciting, relevant visitor centre that will inspire them to keep alive the heroism and sacrifice that kept our shores safe 70 years ago."

The trust is appealing for help in raising £650,000 to create the visitor attraction.

• **To donate, send cheques payable to 'The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust' to PO Box 337, West Malling, ME6 9AA; or donate online via the trust website at www.battleofbritainmemorial.org**

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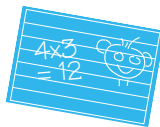
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BREAK TIME

Celebrations as Castle eyes academy status

CASTLE Community College has been granted academy status.

The college applied earlier in the year and received confirmation that it would be one of some 200 institutions to become academies in September.

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke has backed the school's campaign, speaking out in the Commons in support of the application.

He said: "Having been a long-term supporter of Castle Community's bid, I am delighted that it will be among the first schools to shift to academy status.

"This is national recognition of the campaign we have all fought and the achievements of this exceptional school.

"I want to particularly praise the inspirational Christine Chapman, who has led this campaign with such great results."

Head-teacher Ms Chapman said: "I am thrilled for our school and our community. Charlie's intervention made a real difference and I'm so grateful for his help in our getting early academy status.

"This means our school can continue to build on our strong academic position and I would like to thank all of our staff, students and parents who have contributed to this result."

The Department for Education's criteria for a school to be granted academy status comprise an outstanding academic record and support for the bid from both the board of governors and parent teacher association.

Mr Elphicke said: "Parents, teachers and governors have all worked very hard to get to this position today and I hope that this will ensure the children of Deal continue to receive the excellent education to which they are entitled."

Special-needs pupils get an education they can bank on

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

A HIGH-STREET bank has been helping youngsters get to grips with finances and bank accounts.

Pupils at Harbour School in Dover have been getting help from staff at NatWest branches in managing their money.

The special-needs school has had a bank opened on the premises run by its students as part of the MoneySense programme.

Students who have obtained jobs at the school bank have received cashier-training.

All the pupils at the school in Elms Vale Road have the opportunity to pay money into their accounts and will get regular statements, which the NatWest staff will help them work through.

NatWest supports financial education through its MoneySense For Schools programme, the largest financial-education scheme of its kind in the UK.

The programme was set up by the bank to develop business and financial skills among young people.

Since its launch in 1994, more than 3,100 schools in England and Wales have been involved, with the help of some 5,100 NatWest staff, including Sandra Latter, who has been involved in the delivery of this 'branch'.

Teacher Debbie Richards said: "We are delighted Sandra and her team invested the time with our pupils to help them understand what is involved in managing your money.

"The pupils really enjoyed learning about how they can best manage their finances and fully engaged with the bank team on the day.



CASH IN HANDS: A team from NatWest visited Harbour School to teach youngsters money-management techniques

"I would like to thank NatWest for their support and recognising that pupils with special needs can benefit from an understanding of basic money-management so they are better equipped in adult life."

Sandra Latter, regional MoneySense coach for Kent, said: "The importance of financial capability for young people cannot be underestimated, and Harbour School is no exception. "It is essential the young people are

equipped with the skills and confidence to make decisions.

"The pupils at Harbour School who have been selected to run the school bank have shown great interest and enthusiasm to learn the new skills.

"I'm delighted NatWest has been able to help Harbour School and I look forward to continuing to work with them further down the line."

• See www.natwest.com/moneysense.

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CHOCKS AWAY: Actor Christopher Plummer, playing Squadron Leader Colin Harvey, in *The Jackdaw*, in Denton; the pub has become a popular haunt for fans of the film

BBC to air classic film in celebrating Battle of Britain's 70th anniversary

A SPECIAL event in Folkestone is set to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – fought in the skies above Kent.

The BBC is behind plans to show the classic 1969 war movie *Battle of Britain* starring Michael Caine, Laurence Olivier and Christopher Plummer at Quarterhouse on Friday (August 20) at 5pm.

Before the film, the audience will be invited to take part in a question-and-answer session with historians and eyewitnesses to the events of 1940.

The BBC will also be showing a selection of films made this year retelling the key stories of the battle 70 years ago.

Spectacular

In 1969, the definitive movie about the Battle of Britain was released for the first time. The film featured a then-stellar cast including Olivier, Caine, Plummer, Ralph Richardson and Ian MacShane.

Many of the film's spectacular flying sequences were shot in the skies above Kent, and real-life Battle of Britain pilots considered them accurate representations of what it was like to fly during the historic dogfights.

While the film's airfield scenes

■ BY NICK AMES

were shot in Essex, one of the key sequences featured *The Jackdaw* pub in Denton

In the scene, Plummer, playing Squadron Leader Colin Harvey, uses the phone box to speak to his wife Maggie, played by Susannah York.

Threatened

The box is still there – despite being threatened with demolition last year.

Helen Brown, landlady of *The Jackdaw*, said: "We get a lot of people with connections to the RAF coming here, including some of the pilots who actually flew in the war."

"On the wall are pictures from the film, as well as other mementoes of the pilots and aircrew and their aircraft."

"Film fans come here as well because the pub is instantly recognisable in the movie."

"They all want to see where the filming took place and the wall which was used in the shot is still in place – the exterior has hardly changed either."



ACTION STATIONS: Much of the classic film was shot in 1969 over the skies of Kent

Former Army major is back in the UK after Afghan jail misery

BILL Shaw, 52, the former soldier acquitted of bribery by an Afghan appeal court, is back home in the UK.

Mr Shaw, a former Army Major whose daughter lives in Dover, was found guilty of bribing officials in March.

But the former military policeman,

who was awarded the MBE for his service with the Royal Military Police in Iraq, Northern Ireland and Cyprus, always said he thought he was paying a legitimate fee to ensure the return of vehicles and on July 4 he was acquitted.

The appeal court cited lack of evi-

dence as the reason for dropping the charges. After spending time with work colleagues from security firm GS4 he flew to Dubai. There he was joined by wife Liz; daughter Lisa Luckyn-Malone, who lives in Dover; and two sons before flying back to the UK.



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your letters



LETTERS: Please send your letters to: The editor, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS



EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS

MP should be aiding this port in a storm

Deal relies on the Port of Dover for employment, both directly in terms of jobs and indirectly because of what the port and ferry workers spend in the shops and other local businesses.

The ferry companies are facing severe difficulties at the moment. Any threat to the ferry companies operating out of Dover is not just a threat to Dover, but also to Deal.

It is just the time when our recently-elected MP Charles Elphicke should be working his hardest for his electorate.

But, I am told, the very day that P&O announced possible job cuts was the day when Mr Elphicke departed for his continental holiday.

While I'm sure no one would begrudge Mr Elphicke some time away from his daily commute from his Belgravia home to Westminster, it is a shame that he has chosen to unwind on the sun-drenched beaches of southern Europe just when his constituents need him most.

Clr Bryan Henderson (Labour)
Deal Town Council, North Deal ward

Can power stations react to rising tide?

While Energy Secretary Chris Huhne may appear to allow for another nuclear station at Dungeness, the circumstances remain clearly against such a move.

This is because all such existing stations, and the proposed new ones, are located on coastal sites that are becoming increasingly vulnerable to sea-level rises.

Indeed the latest reports on the Greenland ice-sheet show very worrying trends.

A panel of scientists warned the US Congress on March 10 that the land-based ice-sheet is facing a melt tipping point within 10 years as world temperatures rise due to climate change.

They advised that a further rise of just two degrees Centigrade, which is now regarded as an unlikely minimum over the next few decades, would see Greenland's ice melt into the Atlantic causing a worldwide sea-level rise of up to seven metres.

Given that Dungeness and Romney Marsh, along with most of the coastal parts of Shepway, are all under this figure, it would be sheer folly to site another station at the current site for another 60 or so years.

Further, it is already the case that site owners EDF are supposedly going to have to pay for building it without public subsidy, but will they also guarantee to pay for moving the shingle bank because of onshore drift in perpetuity as well?

The UK, as with others, has far too long dragged its feet over implementing a strategy of producing the full range of renewables technologies and other 'green' measures needed to better combat global warming; indeed we may now be

your blogger

BJ Tritton wonders if his generation can ever be forgiven for such a toxic financial legacy



"A YOUNG man who isn't a socialist hasn't got a heart. An old man who is a socialist hasn't got a head."

So said David Lloyd George. And now we ageing baby boomers are getting the blame for leaving the younger generation to pay for our supposed profligacy.

I cannot help but feel this is a distortion. All my life I have defended the welfare state, supported the NHS, had doubts about the free market and felt concern about the economics of home ownership – to name but a few beliefs which could be labeled "socialist".

As a young man, I believed hunger, poverty and inequality could be eradicated. I was aware that for this to happen, especially on a worldwide basis, my own circumstances would be reduced. I was prepared for that, believing quality of life had little to do with the sybaritic standards developing in our society.

I voted for these things, campaigned for these things, made my feelings known – often to disapprobation, if not ridicule, from my peers. Not all of them; there were many who felt the same way. But nothing happened. The inequalities and economic absurdities continued.

My wife and I gave up good jobs and moved to rural Wales, eking out a living in tourism and agriculture, believing there was a possibility capitalism would collapse. Still nothing happened. Despite recession in the early 1970s, society recovered and began to rebuild the house of cards again. Then something happened to me.

The heart began to lose its influence and the head took precedence. By now we had three sons. I realised it was not my place to inflict upon them a lower stan-

dard of living, but to give them all the advantages I could. If they later chose to deny materialism, that had to be their decision, not mine.

I went back to the rat race, played the property game, took financial risks. Am I partly to blame for the imminent collapse of the welfare state? For the debt we are foisting on the younger generation? Of course I am.

Every individual has a responsibility for the society in which they live. But to blame a whole generation for taking advantage of a situation into which we were actively encouraged is absurd. We did it for our children. We are still doing it for our children. Baby boomers are acting as unpaid child minders, subsidising middle-aged children with families, still supporting the generation we are accused of abandoning.

Yes, I fear for the future. I grew up with a welfare state and the NHS. To see it withering away frightens me for the sake of coming generations. I am equally concerned that essential aspects of society are threatened while unnecessary and immoral elements such as Trident renewal seem to survive.

As an individual – and there are many like me – I am more than prepared, for the sake of the generations we are accused of abandoning to an insecure future, to pay more taxes to support a welfare state.

Not, I think, an attitude of a greedy, inconsiderate, parasitic baby boomer. To take from those who can afford it is a better road than to cut services to those who need them. As to those coming generations to whom we are leaving such a poisoned legacy; I admit to my part. Now take your part. Hopefully, you can make a better job of it than we did.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

too late to keep temperature rises to 2C by 2050 or so; but if we were to take a lead on this now we may still be able to avoid the worst consequences for our descendants and avoid leaving them with further nuclear waste problems and costs.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Mixed messages not good for immigration

At the time of the general election the Liberal Democrat and the Conservatives had policies on immigration that were essentially diametrically opposed to each other.

Nick Clegg's Lib Dems promised an amnesty for more than one million illegal immigrants and a liberal open-door regime, while David Cameron for the Tories promised to put a firm cap on immigration from outside the European Union and only to allow in essential highly-skilled workers.

After three months of coalition the country's immigration policy is now in tatters and we have neither one thing or the other.

Outside No 10, Mr Cameron tells us he is capping non EU immigration, yet by the back door the Skills Secretary Vince Cable says he is letting in thousands of IT workers from India and elsewhere on inter-company transfers and even more students going to bogus language schools.

Caps that are promised, then apparently exempt hairdressers, circus artists, fitness trainers and any

foreign footballer capable of playing for their national team and under-mining own home-grown talent.

But what must really concern us all about the coalition's immigration policy is Mr Cameron recent well-publicised support for Turkey's entry into the European Union.

Never mind that Turkey is not fully part of Europe as most of us know it. Never mind that it has borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Syria etc.

The fact that it has a population of more than 72 million people, who under the EU treaty, would be free to come and work and live here torpedoed any hope we have of controlling immigration and keeping the United Kingdom's population within manageable limits.

With Britain's population growth already outpacing the rest of Europe, and with the population set to hit 70 million by 2029, we can no longer afford to fudge immigration policy or maintain the luxury of looking both ways at once for fear of upsetting people with the unwelcome truth that immigration has to be brought under strict control.

Control that will only be jeopardised by cut backs in public services such as the UK Borders Agency staff at Dover and Heathrow or in police numbers by thousands across the country and cutbacks in benefit offices and courts.

Any coalition is always a compromise, but when that compromise is clouded by double vision on immigration it threatens the nation's economic and social stability and as such is not a price worth paying.

Cameron and Clegg can't have it both ways.

They must either act now to stop further immigration and withdraw Turkey's invitation to join the EU or face up to the reality that time is running out in the UK those for politicians and parties who would rather ignore the issue and hope it will just go away. It won't.

Donald Worsley, Folkestone and Hythe Labour Party

Bullfighting ban step in the right direction

I was delighted to hear that the Parliament of Catalonia has voted to ban bullfighting, despite its place in Spain's cultural tradition.

For a long time I have been concerned by this barbaric practice and last week was an important step towards the total ban I would like to see.

Bullfighting is a continuation of a cruel age from the past, in which the suffering of animals was a spectacle for public entertainment.

Since being elected I have received numerous letters objecting to bullfighting.

I am determined to make sure that no money from the EU is ever used to fund this bloody tradition.

I look forward to the day when this ban is extended across the whole of Spain.

Catherine Bearder MEP (Liberal Democrats), South East England

Trident is deterring jobs not attacks

The most expensive single element of the Government's future defence budget is Trident nuclear-missile renewal, at about £97 billion over the life of the system.

Since the coalition government was formed, the Ministry of Defence and the main opposition party are all divided about this expenditure – there is good reason to cancel this spending.

Kent Green Party asserts that with this cut, fair taxation and a closure of tax havens, the excessive cuts now hitting front-line services could be abandoned.

Continuing on the coalition's present path, as many economists are arguing, will lead to a 'double-dip recession'.

Kent Green Party does not accept that nuclear weapons are a 'deterrent.' If this was the case, then Argentina would never have attacked the Falkland Islands.

Similarly, Georgia would not have taken the risk that its actions might provoke the Russian Federation, a state with nuclear weapons, to attack Georgia.

In short, nuclear 'deterrence' is a big lie and people should not be paying with their jobs in Kent and Medway to keep Trident or other British nuclear weapons.

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki this month should be marked by the coalition cancelling Trident as its contribution to reducing nuclear proliferation.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

Working to stop cycle of our jobless families

Nearly one in eight children living in the South East are growing up in a home where no one has a job.

Alarmingly, this equates to 176,000 youngsters who, according to a new report from The Prince's Trust and Qa Research, are significantly more likely to struggle when it comes to finding work.

For many growing up in workless families, it is 'normal' not to have a job, not to go to work and earn a steady wage. Many lack confidence yet we know that they want to work. In the South East, eight in ten say that finding a good job is their main priority for the future.

Qa Research has found that young people across the region are facing a cycle of worklessness and many can't see a way out.

It is an absolute tragedy to think that so many feel condemned to a life on benefits when they are capable of so much more.

It is organisations like The Prince's Trust, working with local councils, businesses and individuals, that are key to helping young people into jobs. Only by giving them skills, confidence and positive role models can we help them escape unemployment for good.

If we don't do anything, this cycle will continue to blight these families for generations to come.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness, South East regional director, The Prince's Trust



ON SONG: Former Spandau Ballet lead singer Tony Hadley was amongst the stars taking part last year

Star-studded day on course to top £2m for charity

COMEDIAN Dave Lee is hitting the golf course with a host of celebrities to help raise funds to send disabled, underprivileged and terminally ill children on holiday.

The event will bring together avid golfers and stars of stage and screen to battle it out for the title of champion, while raising money for Dave Lee's Happy Holidays.

Last year, Spandau Ballet frontman Tony Hadley and ex-footballer Neil Ruddock were among the 30 celebrities involved and around £25,000 was raised.

The aim is to raise hopefully more this year. Celebrities expected to attend include comedians Jim Davidson, Bradley Walsh, Joe Pasquale, TV presenter Stephen Mulhern, ex EastEnders' stars Emma Barton and Shaun Williamson, plus from the world of sport Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp and former boxing world champ Barry McGuigan.

For Dave, from Herne, near Canterbury, this year's golf day is even more significant, with the charity close to reaching the £2 million mark in money raised since it started in 1994.

"Everybody would be so pleased if we reached

■ BY ROSANNA TENNANT

this target," said Dave. "The charity is run by volunteers – nobody is paid – with all money raised going towards holidays for disabled, underprivileged and terminally ill children from Kent.

"We've got five holiday homes at Camber Sands and we've sent more than 45,000 children and their families on holidays."

Trips have included Tenerife, Disneyland Paris and Disney World in Florida.

Some 1,200 children are also sent to see a Christmas pantomime. This year's Marlowe Theatre panto will be Robin Hood and Dave will be starring as Nurse Nelly, nurse maid to Maid Marion.

Auction

The KOS Media sponsored charity golf is on Sunday, September 5, at Chart Hills golf club in Biddenden.

A charity dinner in the evening, which last year saw 350 guests, will include a cabaret act from Bobby Davro, music from Chas Hodges – formerly of Chas and Dave – and his band, plus an auction.

For visitors, the gates open at 10am and



RAISE A SMILE: Dave Lee's charity hopes to hit £2m mark

admission is £5 (children free). There will be free parking, a bar and on course catering. The event organisers are expecting between 2,000 and 12,000 people.

Teams of three are being encouraged to sign up to play, with a celebrity picked to play with them. The cost is £700, including 18 holes of golf on the Nick Faldo designed course, breakfast, pre-dinner drinks and a four-course meal.

Those wanting to come only to the dinner can pay £85 (per head?)

It looks set to be a great day out for all the family, with autograph opportunities and the chance to chat with celebrities so don't forget your camera.

To sign up, call Mr Aylward on 01732 456505 or 07834 468664 or email daveleehappyholidays@tiscali.co.uk.

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The Last Airbender

M Night Shyamalan has lost his unbreakable movie sense by making the leap to a special effects-laden adaptation

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DAY & NIGHT

Fantasy art on show

WORK by 96-year-old fantasy artist Cyril Parfitt can be seen in Ramsgate this weekend.

The exhibition will be on display upstairs at the Old Custom House in Harbour Parade from Friday to Sunday. For details call 01843 581427 or 07749 572388 or go to www.cyrilparfitt.co.uk.

Celebrate world music

WORLD music will be celebrated at Chilli Fried: The Afro-Latin Beat.

Music for Change presents BouGaRaBou and DJ Jamie Renton at the East Quay Venue at Whitstable Harbour from 8pm on Friday. Tickets cost £8 in advance from Hotel Continental or £10 on the door. For details visit www.musicforchange.org.

Jazz legend at Grand

ENJOY live jazz by the Richard Rozze Quintet at The Grand in Folkestone on Thursday night.

Jazz trumpet legend Dick Pearce will join Rozze on guitar, Perry White on keyboard, Olly Blanchflower on double bass and Vince Price on drums.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £6. To book call 01303 277175.

Write your own soap

YOUNG people can write and perform a mini soap opera for Ashford Visual Arts and Architecture Festival.

Anyone aged 12 and above can join the workshops at Ashford Adult Education Centre from Monday to next Friday and Tuesday, August 3. The work will be performed at the Memorial Gardens on September 18. For details visit www.shared-space.org.uk.

Comedy while you dine

GET ready to giggle when the Comedy Club returns to Ashford International Hotel on Friday.

MC Padraig Hyland will appear with Andy White and Eddy Brimson. The show starts at 9pm and tickets cost £16, or £22 including a two-course meal, with a discount for members. Book on 01233 219988 or visit www.hahaheehee.com.

Music at bandstand

FREE live music is on offer at Dane John Gardens in Canterbury this week-end with Bands on the Stand.

Organised by swing and jive band, the Goosebumps, the free event features runs from noon to 6pm on Sunday.

The event will raise money for the British Red Cross. To find out more visit www.goosebumpsmusic.co.uk.

Thriller by Gaslight

A NEWLY-married woman fears for her sanity when strange things happen in Patrick Hamilton's thriller, Gaslight.

The show runs at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs from Thursday to Sunday. Tickets cost £10.50 or £12.50 for non-members of Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, who must book a day in advance on 0845 262 6263 or emailing info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Rare chance to see top comic

ROSS NOBLE

Tuesday, September 14

Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



CULT comedian Ross Noble will be performing for a lucky audience in Canterbury next month.

The affable comic usually plays to very large venues and has achieved the best-selling show at both the Edinburgh Festival and Melbourne International Festival. Yet the long-haired funny man will be entertaining his fans in the relatively intimate surroundings of the Gulbenkian when he warms up for his new tour, Nonsensory Overload.

Tickets for Noble's shows always sell fast, but at the time of writing, a handful of tickets remain, so book without delay if you want to see this highly-gifted and acclaimed comedian in action.

Although Noble mostly turns down offers to appear on television, he has earned a huge following during his years in the comedy business.

Much of his popularity has spread by word of mouth and he has unveiled a new stand-up show every year since 1999, taking his high energy and original style of comedy as far afield as Australia on a regular basis.

Raised in Cramlington in Northumberland, Noble's comedy career started as a child when he performed a street show with a friend. When his mate grew bored of the act, Noble decided to go it alone and made his comedy club debut at the age of just 15.

Due to licensing laws, the young comic had to be smuggled out through the club's kitchen straight after his set, but Noble's stellar career had taken off.

The only non-comedy jobs he has ever had were selling juggling kits in a department store and selling balloons for a travelling clown troupe, for whom he performed as a stilt walker. But his high level of critical and popular acclaim has allowed Noble to make his career mostly on the stage.

Noble's popularity has continued to soar over the years, with many fans raving about his extraordinary talent and mostly adlibbed shows. Although he claims to write gags in 'various tatty notebooks', he is renowned for his ability to spin off on random tangents and perform shows that are often largely inspired on the spot.

In this respect, Noble has been recognised as a truly remarkable performer. His achievements include being nominated for the Perrier Award for his 1999 stand-up show Laser Boy, along with winning the Barry Award, the Time Out Award and numerous other accolades.

Although Noble is often busy touring, he has accepted offers to appear on such television shows as Have I Got News for You, Jack Dee Live at the Apollo, Room 101 and Friday Night



with Jonathan Ross. On radio, he is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's Just a Minute and I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.

Noble's worldwide travels have also led to the comic becoming the star of his own shows, including the Radio 4 series Ross Noble Goes Global and Ross Noble On.

Noble used to live in Australia with his wife and daughter until their home was destroyed by last year's bush fires, and the family has

since moved back to the UK.

He cites Billy Connolly as one of his comic heroes, saying on his website that the Big Yin is 'the greatest stand-up this country has produced and I would love to still be doing it at his age'.

The show is suitable for over-15s and starts at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £16. To book call the box office on 01227 769075 or visit the website at www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.



Reader Holidays

UNIQUE FREE BAR WARNER PARTY BREAKS

Isle of Wight Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange 3 Nights from only £199pp

Friday 5 to 8 Nov 2010 Tour NG11-2

Norton Grange, the friendly Warner Resort on the seaford at Yarmouth, on the Isle of Wight, is ideal for our fun-filled Christmas Party - for over 40s only - featuring cabaret and variety entertainment, good food, great entertainment and a Free Bar every day - perfect for a pre-Christmas get together.

Price includes:

- **FREE Bar** from 15.30hrs to 23:00hrs on Friday and 12.00hrs to 23.00hrs on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include tea/coffee, pumped

soft drinks & mixers, wine by the glass, house beers & spirits.

- Full programme of variety entertainment and activities
- **Meals:** 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded en-suite chalet - upgrades available - Standard Plus £219pp - Premier £229pp
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna, jacuzzi
- **Travel:** Self drive with car ferry - min 2 per car



Free Car Ferry | Over 40s Only | Free Bar

Mamma Mia Christmas Party at Warner Bembridge Coast 3 Nights from only £259pp

Friday 12 to 15 Nov 2010
Tour MM11 Last Few Places!

Price includes:

- **FREE Drinks**
- Variety Entertainment & Activities programme including Abba Tribute Band & Mamma Mia movie screening
- Fireworks display
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights sharing an en-suite Ambassador room - upgrades available
- Sea-view Room - £274pp
- Signature Room - £304pp
- Royale Room - £319pp
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna
- **Travel:** Self drive with car ferry included - min 2 people per car



Come Dancing Party at Warner Bembridge 3 Nights from only £259pp

Friday 14 to 17 Jan 2011 Tour MB1

Our Bembridge Dance breaks were a sell-out in 2009 and 2010 so we're doing it all again in 2011. There will be Ballroom and Latin dancing, tuition for beginners and improvers, top dancers in cabaret and a Grand Ball & variety entertainment. And with an 8,860sq ft dance floor, you won't be short of space. There's plenty going on for non-dancers, and, there's Free Drinks too.

Price includes:

- **FREE Drinks**
- Nightly entertainment & dancing
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded Ambassador room - upgrades available
- Sea-view Room £274pp
- Signature Room - £304pp
- Royale Room - £319pp
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna,
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Ballroom & Latin Dance Specialists

Free Car Ferry | Over 40s Only | Free Bar

Carry on New Year Party at Warner Sinah Warren 3 Nights from only £229pp

Friday 7 to 10 Jan 2011 Tour WS

Here's an opportunity - for over 40s only - to extend the New Year celebrations at Sinah Warren, Warner's luxury hotel on Hayling Island. There'll be live entertainment every evening and, to help the party go with a swing, there's Free Drinks too.

Price includes:

- **FREE drinks** from 15.30hrs to 23:00hrs on Friday and 12.00hrs to 23.00hrs on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include tea/coffee, pumped

soft drinks & mixers, house wine by the glass, house beers & spirits.

- Full programme of entertainment & activities
- **Meals:** 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded Ambassador room - upgrades available - Sea-view Room £244pp Signature Room £274pp - Royal Room £289pp
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool & sauna pool
- **Travel:** Self drive



Over 40s Only | Free Bar

Michael Jackson Party at Warner Bembridge 3 Nights from only £239pp

Friday 25 to 28 Feb 2011 Tour MB2

Join us for a Fabulous Michael Jackson Party on the Isle of Wight Warner's Bembridge Coast Hotel will resound to the sights and sounds of the King of Pop as our fabulous party weekend includes nightly entertainment, a screening of the movie This Is It and a Michael Jackson tribute act featuring the songs of the Jackson Five as well as Michael's biggest hits. There's also a Free Bar.

Price includes:

- **FREE Drinks**
- Nightly entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights sharing an Ambassador room - upgrades available
- Seaview Room £254pp
- Signature Room - £284pp
- Royale Room - £299pp
- **Travel:** Self drive with car ferry included - min 2 people



Bembridge Coast Hotel

A super, modern hotel set on a glorious part of the east coast of the Isle of Wight with great sea views of the Solent. There's plenty to do during the day as well as live entertainment every night. Have a cooked breakfast each morning, or choose from a range of lighter options. For dinner, help yourself to a full carvery or opt for an à la carte 3-course menu served to your table. Accommodation is in light and airy Ambassador rooms, which have an ensuite bathroom, TV with radio, complimentary toiletries, lounge chairs, tea and coffee making facilities, telephone and hairdryer - upgrades available.

- Our Party Breaks include a free bar from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday and 12 noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday for house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee. (*Mamma Mia Free Bar 6 to 11pm daily)



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FAME: THE MUSICAL

Wednesday, August 25, to Saturday, August 28,
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



GET ready to tap those toes when talented young performers appear in Fame: The Musical.

Thanks to Kidz on Stage and the Community Theatre Project, young people from the Shepway area will be showing off their dancing, singing and acting skills. The cast and crew will have had just two weeks to perfect the show, before seven electrifying performances.

Follow the fortunes of young show business hopefuls as they take their first steps to fame at the School of Performing Arts in New York. Find out who will

reach for the stars and who will fall by the wayside as they all strive to achieve their dreams.

Hit songs include Bring on Tomorrow, Dancing on the Sidewalk, Hard Work and the unforgettable title number, Fame. The cast includes Callum Erskine as Nick Piazza, Harriet Dury as Serena Katz, Jo Batchelor as Joe Vegas, Sam Humphries as Tyrone Jackson and Sophie Nunn as Carmen Diaz.

Tickets cost £12/£10. To book call 0844 847 1776 or visit www.leascliffhall.org.uk.



FROM FILM AND FOOTLIGHTS

Thursday, August 19, Town Hall, Dover



AN EXCLUSIVE scene and song from Shrek the Musical can be seen this week, before the show hits the West End.

The extract from the new Broadway musical will be performed by members of Dover Youth Theatre during their next production, From Film and Footlights.

Following six days of intensive workshop rehearsals, 25 talented local performers will be regaling the audience with scenes and musical numbers from a variety of popular films and stage shows.

The young actors have been working with Marie Kelly-Thomas, Michael Thomas and

West End director, Pete Faint, to create the show.

Faint has directed such high-profile productions as Chicago, The Rat Pack, Carousel, Annie, Jesus Christ Superstar and Miss Saigon.

Highlights in Thursday's show include moments from Sunset Boulevard, Brigadoon, Shakespeare in Love and Sister Act, along with the exclusive taster of Shrek the Musical.

The role of the big green ogre will be played by 17-year-old Ben Steele, a local actor who studies at Canterbury College.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and admission is free.

DIPPERS AND DUNKERS

Friday, August 20, to Friday, August 27
Various venues, Margate



MARGATE plays host to a week of saucy seaside fun with the return of the Dippers and Dunkers.

As part of Thanet's Summer of Festivals series, the event returns for a second year to offer Margate's famous traditions with a contemporary twist. Named after the Victorian locals who 'dipped and dunked' their visitors in the sea, the week-long extravaganza features traditional entertainment.

National and international stars of the New Variety scene will appear in the Sassy Seaside Show at the Theatre Royal Margate on Friday and Saturday, with Romany, the Magic Circle's Magician of the Year, heading straight from her Las Vegas show to act as host.

Some captivating sideshows will be on offer in the Old Town, such as the Headless Lady, the Legless Lady and the Monster Show. Learn about the saucy history of British burlesque in A Glimpse of Stocking, laugh the night away with comedian Earl Okin and marvel at the exhibits in the Insect Museum.

To find out more visit the festival website at www.dippersanddunkers.org.uk.



BROADSTAIRS WATER GALA

Wednesday, August 25,
Victoria Gardens & Promenade, Broadstairs

TRADITIONAL family entertainment can be enjoyed at next week's Broadstairs Water Gala.

Sponsored by KOS Media, the annual event boasts new games and competitions this year. The event gets underway at 9.30am with the Teddy Bear's Picnic at Lillyputt Mini Golf on Victoria Parade. Those who would like to test their strength can take part in the greasy pole competition, the Tug o' War and the beach volleyball contest.

Teams who would like to tackle the pole or take part in the Millers and Sweeps Raft Race should contact the harbour master, Andy Wood, on 07847 473615.

Swimmers can take part in the sponsored swim from Ramsgate main beach to Viking Bay by calling Neil Morgan on 07812 991445.

The beach hut decoration competition takes the theme of Club Tropicana this year and huts can be hired daily by contacting the Day Inspector, by the Viking Bay Café. With lots of traditional seaside games, a funfair, craft stalls, live music and evening fireworks, there is lots to look forward to.

To find out more call 01227 700894 or 07789 746828.

SCULPTURE AT THE SECRET GARDEN

Monday, August 23, to Monday, August 30,
The Secret Gardens, Sandwich

STUNNING art work will be displayed alongside nature when the Secret Gardens host the third annual sculpture exhibition.

As part of Sandwich Festival, the gardens become a living art gallery next week to showcase the work of art group Pure Form.

Founded by local artists and sculptor Patrick Crouch, the group creates works of art from mostly reclaimed pieces of old architecture from Canterbury's historic buildings. These include pieces taken from the cathedral during restoration work.

Pure Form has up to 70 members from a diverse range of backgrounds and more than 35 artists will be taking part in the exhibition.

Visitors to the Secret Gardens will also be able to see sculpting in action as pieces are created from raw materials. This year, all the exhibits will be auctioned on the last day of the exhibition.

The Secret Gardens are open from 10am to 5pm daily as part of Sandwich Festival Week. Admission costs £6/£5.50 for adults, £3 for children and is free for under-sixes. To find out more visit the website at www.the-secretgardens.co.uk.



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yourcompetition

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TO CELEBRATE Hed Kandi's fashion launch and the opening of its first store at Bluewater, Kent, on Thursday, August 19, Hed Kandi is offering the chance to win an exclusive VIP experience for a reader and their best friend!

The prize includes:

- The ultimate Hed Kandi Fashion outfit of your choice for you and your friend
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- A professional photographer will capture your catwalk moment
- Leave with a bag of fabulous Hed Kandi goodies

To enter this money-can't-buy competition, please answer the following question: Hed Kandi is famous for its glamorous club nights across the globe. Which club in Ibiza is it at this summer?

- A: Space
B: Pacha
C: Es Paradis

Please send your answer on a postcard with your contact number to: Hed Kandi Competition, Ministry of Sound, 103 Gaunt Street, London SE1 6DP, or via email to: hedkandicompetition@hedkandi.com. The closing date is Friday, August 20.

The winner will be contacted on the number provided on Friday, August 20, and must be available on Saturday, August 21.

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature, please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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Airbender fails to come out on top in battle for our hearts and minds

■ BY DAMON SMITH

MIGHT Shyamalan is an odd choice to direct a special effects-laden adventure based on the popular Nickelodeon animated TV series, *Avatar: The Last Airbender*.

After all, this is the filmmaker who allowed us all to see dead people in *The Sixth Sense*, created a modern day superhero in *Unbreakable* and allowed an enraged Mother Nature to slaughter most of mankind in *The Happening*.

The *Last Airbender* is a very different beast: a big budget journey of discovery, punctuated by sprawling battle sequences on a similarly grand scale to *The Lord Of The Rings* trilogy, that relies heavily on spectacle rather than substance or Shyamalan's famed narrative twists.

The writer-director juggles the myriad technical elements, but he is occasionally let down by unconvincing digital effects that look more like a cartoon than live action.

Moreover, some of the performances are more wooden than the gargantuan sets, creating repeated moments of unintentional hilarity that cuts through the dramatic tension.

The worst offender is a seemingly innocuous line from a village elder about her young charge being "the last bender" for miles.

Orphaned siblings Sokka (Jackson Rathbone) and Katara (Nicola Peltz) discover a young boy called Aang (Noah Ringer) frozen in the ice near their village.

The tyke is covered in strange tattoos and the siblings surmise that Aang must be the Avatar, destined to manipulate the four elements (air, water, earth, fire).

No sooner have the children arrived back at their village than outcast Prince Zuko (Dev Patel) from the Fire Nation and his soldiers capture Aang and hold him hostage aboard their ship. Thankfully, the prisoner escapes and begins the journey back to his temple, accompanied by Sokka and Katara.



Picture: PA Photo/Panorama

TATTOED STRANGER: Noah Ringer as Aang, the Avatar who faces the tough task of stopping the Fire Nation enslaving the Water, Air and Earth Nations

Meanwhile, Zuko's father Fire Lord Ozai (Cliff Curtis) entreats trusted Commander Zhao (Asif Mandvi) to find Aang, and prevent the boy from achieving his destiny.

The *Last Airbender* screens in 3D in select cinemas, but the increasingly popular format was an afterthought, so don't bother paying the additional ticket prices for the honour of wearing uncomfortable plastic spectacles.

A caption card at the beginning reads Book

One: Water and it quickly becomes clear that this is the first film in a potential series.

It's hard to imagine subsequent chapters ever making it to the big screen.

Ringer is a likeable hero, struggling to comprehend his pre-ordained path, and Patel wrings as much pathos as possible from his underwritten role as the exiled prodigal son.

Watery special effects aren't convincing, and a pivotal scene in which one character sacri-

fices their life for the good of mankind fails to bring a tear to the eye.

"[Aang] will begin to win hearts because it's in hearts that all wars are won," says one sage.

Regrettably, in the battle for our hearts and minds, Shyamalan comes up short.

THE LAST AIRBENDER 
Certificate PG



CHALLENGE: Amish teenagers are thrown in at the deep end of British culture



YOUR TV REVIEW AMISH: WORLD'S SQUAREST TEENAGERS: Channel 4, 8pm, Sunday

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

WHEN a television programme puts God-fearing Amish teenagers with their British counterparts to experience the extremes of our society, we know we can expect tantrums, shouting and denunciations.

But watching *'Amish: World's Squarest Teenagers'* that is precisely not what we get.

Channel 4's latest reality television offering went for the usual inflammatory mix of people who really should never meet.

In this case, the cast was barn-raising, electricity-shunning Christians and a parade of Britain's finest ghetto kids, festival-goers and toffs.

The programme was interspersed with bible-readings from an Amish elder, showing the Good Book disproving of the English teenagers' wild and wicked ways.

But instead of Wife Swap-style

recriminations, there was something absolutely wonderful about watching these quiet, calm, thoughtful youngsters learning about how we live.

Instead of telling everyone they are damned to a fiery afterlife, the five Amish youngsters, who had never drunk, smoked, heard rock music or encountered crime before, learned incredibly touching lessons from their British counterparts.

When welcomed on to a London estate by a family and shown stabbing sites and urban dancing, the three boys and two girls wonder at the warmth they are shown. They even accept provocative dancing may actually be a good thing if it keeps teenagers off the streets.

During the weekly show we got to

see the amazement on the teenagers' faces when they saw the sea for the first time, share one of the girls' joy when she danced for the first time, and watch when the Christians joined a choir to pay tribute to a 14-year-old who has been stabbed.

The Americans also relaxed their strict rules to paint, go shopping and play the guitar.

And the English vagabonds learned lessons too. The inner-city kids were trashed at rounders by the active Americans, and the festival-loving girls were provoked into deep thought about the way they dress.

The episodes were not without tensions, troubles and tears, but the individuals gave a refreshing break from the usual shouting matches.

This series was the true social experiment the reality TV genre had been lacking for years.

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yourmusic

Intimate gig is a real must-see



MAKING IT BIG: Hadouken – 'grimey beats and a dollop of fluoro-pop sensibility'

SYNTH stars Hadouken are heading to Kent later this year as part of their 14-date UK tour.

The energetic fluorescent-loving five-piece, who take their name from a once-mindblowing move in the legendary Street Fighter game series – will perform at Ashford School's Brake Hall on Friday, October 29.

It's a must-see for all you grime/electro/rap crossover fans.

The Leeds-based outfit, who formed in 2006, have already built up a loyal fanbase across the UK and are on the verge of making it big, and they've got that Klaxons-esque multi-genre sound to thank for their success.

HMV described them as "a collision of grimey beats, razor-sharp lyrical dissection of nightlife and a whole dollop of fluoro-pop sensibility".

Add the catchiest of catchy beats and an infectious hyper and eager frontman in James Smith and you're half way to cap-

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

turing the full Hadouken effect.

The band's debut album, *Music For An Accelerated Culture*, sold more than 100,000 copies and saw them take the Best Electronic Artist/DJ category at the BT Digital Music Award in 2008.

Last year's follow-up album *For the Masses* drew similar praise and more is expected of their third, as yet unnamed, release.

Hadouken's Ashford gig was lined up after the band decided to spice up their latest tour by playing smaller shows.

With mainstream success on the horizon, it may be some time before Hadouken return to Ashford, so buy your ticket now.

The Brake Hall show is run in association with online radio station Filth FM, founded by Thomas Webb, who will also be DJing.

Support comes in the form of Out Like A Lion, whose single *Back to Front* is out next month.

The four-piece, who've supported the likes of Florence and the

Machine and Babushambles, played Glastonbury and Ashford's own Create Festival this year.

Tickets are £15 from www.seetickets.com or www.hadouken.com.



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Happy Daze - 28/8 The Drum Stanford
- 2 Fred Clark - 01/0 Hazlitt Theatre Maidstone
- 3 The Suspects - 4/9 King Edward VII in Margate
- 4 A Thousand Lights - 22/9 University of Kent, Canterbury
- 5 Craig Sheridan - 24/9 Mill Inn Deal



TAKE IT EASY: Get away from the hustle and bustle of the main waterways on South Walsham Broad – the only private broad in Norfolk

yourgetaways

Why holiday Norfolk is more than just the beautiful Broads

■ BY GARY WRIGHT

AS my 13-year-old son and I paddled our canoe from the narrow waterway, which had us ducking vegetation like something from a King Kong film (his description), we suddenly burst out on to the South Walsham Broad.

I bet no-one who saw us skimming across the expanse of still water, surrounded by lush, green countryside, would have guessed that half an hour earlier neither of us had been in a canoe before – it was easy.

South Walsham Broad is the only private broad among the 120-odd miles of waterways that make up Norfolk's biggest tourist draw.

The Broads are beautiful, and while parts are packed with pleasure craft, you can easily escape the crowds.

I was surprised to learn that the Broads are man-made. Peat dug for heat between the 1100s and 1300s filled as sea levels rose and by the 16th century the navigable Broads became a vital part of the county's transport system.

Norfolk boasts more medieval churches per square mile than anywhere else in the world (it also has a tradition of village signs too, which show the history of the village – there are more than 500).

We stayed in a beautiful cottage in the tiny village of New Buckenham, 300 yards from a Norman castle, 10 miles south of Norwich, but lightyears away from the 21st century.

The village shop, a two-minute walk away before breakfast, boasted 'Provisions' on its sign. Unfortunately bread wasn't deliv-

FACT FILE: NORFOLK

Gary Wright was a guest of Norfolk Country Cottages.

His family stayed at the three-bedroom Carpenter's Cottage in New Buckenham (right) costing £400 and £550 for the week. More details of holiday homes and accommodation at www.norfolkcottages.co.uk.

Contact direct on 01603 871872 or email info@norfolkcottages.co.uk

For more details of holidaying in Norfolk see www.visitnorfolk.co.uk

Fairhaven Woodland Water Garden on South Walsham Broad offers canoeing, boat tours, spectacular gardens, 3.5 miles of woodland paths. More at www.fairhavengarden.co.uk

North Norfolk Railway. Steam and vintage diesel trains Sheringham, Weybourne and Holt. www.nnrailway.co.uk

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eat and relax. Craft shops, junior farm, restaurant and café and a new adventure golf course. www.wroxhambarns.co.uk

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Also thanks to Hyundai for the loan of the Santa Fe CRD 4x4 for the week in Norfolk.

ered until later and there wouldn't be any eggs until tomorrow.

Just up the road though, outside a rambling home, were plenty of eggs at 90p a dozen with an honesty box alongside. There were even pictures of 'the girls' who'd laid them.

Much of Norfolk feels like that, and there were lots of honesty boxes for all manner of local produce. It can still make you think you have stepped back in time.

It has no motorways, so accept that driving even 20 miles will take 40 minutes, and enjoy the scenery. Better still, dump the car and take a bicycle. There are no steep hills and there are miles of cycle-ways.

Norwich, by contrast, is a bustling city with shopping to please everyone, from designer names to market stalls and unique shops in intricate

little Lanes like Brighton. But all the time its spectacular cathedral and dramatic castle remind you of its affluent past.

Seaside fans will love Great Yarmouth, a kiss-me-quick town on the east coast with miles of sandy beaches. Its pleasure beach provides top-notch funfair rides with a dose of adrenaline and the wooden roller coaster, complete with brake-man in the middle, shows thrill rides haven't changed much in 50 years.

Cromer on the North Norfolk coast is far more traditional, and handy for the North Norfolk Steam Railway from nearby Sheringham – 10 miles of pure nostalgia.

After a week I was sorry to leave. It is a gentler pace of life with a welcome in every pub and restaurant.

We'll definitely be back.

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MOTORS NEWS



Suzuki release a timely crossover reminder

SUZUKI has created a new flagship SX4 model.

The SZ5 4x4 (from £14,235) is available with a 1.6-litre petrol or 2.0-litre diesel unit, comes with 4x4 as standard and looks like a smart bid to remind the market that Suzuki anticipated the new vogue for 'crossovers' – family hatchbacks with 'funky chunky' SUV styling.

In diesel format, it can average at least 50mpg and run in economical two-wheel or four-wheel drive. Cheaper front-wheel drive versions of the SX4 start at £11,750.



Lexus offers IS gifts as part of its celebrations

TOYOTA luxury arm Lexus is marking 20 years in the UK with special Celebration Edition offers on its IS junior executive model.

For a limited period, IS models come with a free upgrade to IS F-Sport standard for the price of an equivalent IS 250 or 220d diesel SE-I model.

This brings alloys, leather sports front seats, aluminium pedals, sports steering wheel, boot spoiler and other extras together worth £1,680. The all new IS also comes with three years' complimentary



Good news: the Qashqai has just got even better

NISSAN'S Qashqai – one of Britain's best-selling homegrown models – has received an upgrade.

Emissions and fuel-saving Stop/Start features as a £200 option on 1.6-litre petrol variants and brings road tax benefits, while the 1.5-litre dCi diesel equivalent – the pick of the range – is greener and more powerful (rising from 105bhp to 108bhp).

Nissan has also boosted the n-tec luxury grade by adding 18-inch alloys as standard while a new £250 option brings chrome highlights inside and out.



SPANISH STYLE: Although the Leon FR's interior feels cheap and the dashboard is generally drab, the car is great fun to drive with an automatic 'box or manual F1-style paddles

Seat have a hot hatch with coupé style rolled into one

YOU don't need to climb into the Leon FR to be seduced.

Our test car looked superb in what the Spanish 'Auto Emocion' brand calls 'Speed Blue' – a £550 option from Seat's so-called custom palette, which looks suspiciously like what the trade also used to call 'base colours' ie the non-metallics.

But here's the thing; Seats invariably look great in bold colours and people seem happy to pay extra to escape the monochromatic motoring hell that was two decades of silver and grey metallic.

Our car was also shod with 18-inch Orion black alloys (£510) making it sure to turn heads.

It's not even Seat's hottest Leon yet the FR looks fiery enough with its coupé lines and twin-chromed exhausts.

And you are still being led by the nose as you grip the fat leather wheel and note tasteful red seat stitching, but then things unravel – the rest of the cabin is dull; it is durable, but details can feel cheap and the dashboard is generally drab.

It's a shame, when the Leon cabin is practical and spacious and the car so entertaining,

ROAD TEST SEAT LEON FR

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

using the excellent VW Golf platform and well-known VW powertrains, while infused with the character of Seat itself.

The test car was particular fun with a 170PS (167bhp) 2.0-litre turbodiesel plus six-speed/twin clutch VW DSG gearbox.

It might sound like a contradiction, but this automatic 'box is the perfect partner for a sporting car in the real world; it changes itself when you are bogged down in traffic, but you can race through the gears yourself on a clear road by using F1-style paddles on the wheel.

It's even slightly faster than the manual, taking eight seconds to reach 62mph, and only marginally worse on fuel.

Providing you use gearbox and chassis sensibly, it will average around 50mpg and attracts just £125/year in road tax – not bad for such a sporting car mixing reassuring grip and handling with a decent ride.

However, to spec up with the bold colour and alloys plus that highly attractive gearbox you will add £2,310 to the £19,490 of our FR CR model – a lot of money when you consider that the Leon range starts at a modest £13,975.



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in Silver, 71067 miles

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Total Amount Payable £4748.32* APR 9.9%				

07 Kia Sedona 2.9 Diesel MPV 5dr
in Silver, 31095 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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Total Amount Payable £10350.49* APR 9.9%				

07 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Hatchback 5dr Manual
in Silver, 79288 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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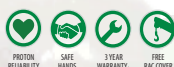
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2004 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £3,995*

2003 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 81,500 miles. £2,995

Other Makes

2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles £7,995*

2004 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S (100BHP) 7-Seat

Finished in Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 50,500 miles. £6,995*

2002 Toyota Yaris 1.3 16v VVT-i CDX 5-Dr

Finished in Cactus Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 38,000 miles. £3,995*

2004 Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles Manual Petrol £3,995*

2006 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495*

2002 Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar

Bright Red 39,350 miles Manual Petrol £3,995*

2006 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. £3,995*

2002 Daewoo Tacuma 1.6 SE 5-Door MPV

Finished in Imperial Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 59,500 miles. £2,995*

2002 Renault Clio 1.2 Expression 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Moondust Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 74,300 miles. £2,995*

2004 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £2,995*

*Correct at time of going to press.

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PROPERTY NEWS

New-builds to be less of a taxing proposition?

A CHANGE to tax proposals could mean that new-build properties become more popular with buyers, according to one property expert.

The Government is considering a higher stamp duty tax for homes that are poorly insulated. Homes that lose large amounts of energy through draughty windows and poorly insulated lofts would be subject to the higher tax, say experts.

Reacting to the claims, the founder of newhomesforsale.co.uk Vernon Pethard said people will be encouraged to buy new homes to avoid falling foul of this tax.

"Threatening an increase in stamp duty on older, poorly insulated homes is likely to deter people from buying one because it's not always possible to bring them up to modern standards," he said.

UK best for investors in commercial property

COMMERCIAL property insurance customers have been told there is little reason to believe the UK commercial property market has become overvalued as a result of recent price rises.

Ed Stansfield, property economist, suggested the UK had seen "one of the bigger corrections" of all global commercial property markets during the downturn and, equally, one of the larger recoveries.

"The bottom line is that there is not a lot of evidence to suggest the UK market had become overvalued as a result of the upswing," he said.

Mr Stansfield's comments follow the Global Investment Perspective report by HSBC, which claimed the UK remains the most attractive commercial property market for investors.

Slight drop in number of tenants owing rent

A FIFTH of private-residential landlords have had tenants in rent arrears over the last three months, according to new research by the National Landlords Association.

During the second quarter of 2010, just over 21 per cent of landlords experienced rental arrears. This represents an improvement on the previous quarter when the figure was at 24.5 per cent.

Furthermore, the average amount of outstanding rent arrears has dropped significantly from £978 in the first three months to £799 in the second.



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MIXED MESSAGES: Despite this week's good news that house prices are creeping up some experts have issued warnings the housing market remains highly volatile at present

Market rise in house prices met with some scepticism

BY NICK AMES

THE HOUSING market has received a boost following the news from the Halifax that prices rose unexpectedly last month.

The news comes as a welcome relief as overall prices have been falling in the last few weeks, but Halifax analysts saw a 0.6 per cent upswing.

This news has been greeted with jubilation by investors and homeowners.

But there are still fears the market is volatile and has been completely settled.

The average price increased to £167,425 from £166,351 and followed falls in the previous three months, including a 0.6 per cent fall in June. The rise beat economists' forecasts of a 0.3 per cent fall in July.

"The mixed pattern of monthly rises and falls over the first seven months of the year is

consistent with a slowing market," said Martin Ellis, housing economist at Halifax.

"It is also in line with our view that house prices will be broadly unchanged over 2010 as a whole."

Prices in July were 4.8 per cent higher compared with a year earlier, the same as the year-on-year increase in June, but lower than the peak of 8.7 per cent in April.

Since the beginning of this year the average UK house price has fallen by £2,059, or 1.2 per cent. Prices are 16 per cent below their August 2007 peak.

Mr Ellis said that while low interest rates and a recovering economy continued to support the housing market, an increase in the number of properties being put on the market

– boosted by the coalition Government's abolition of Home Information Packs (HIPs) – had relieved some of the supply constraint which drove prices up in 2009.

However other experts have issued warnings.

Paul Diggle, property economist at Capital Economics said that monthly house prices were volatile and would continue to be so in the short term.

He said July's increase did not change the likelihood that prices are set for a period of "considerable weakness" in the remainder of this year and into 2011.

"The weakness in buyer activity, signs that credit conditions may be tightening again, the possibility of renewed weakness in the labour market in the next year, and the hit on household incomes that the fiscal squeeze will bring over the next few years, will all weigh on house prices," Mr Diggle said.

Buy in right catchment area and your child will reap reward

PARENTS could be making a good investment by paying more for a house within the catchment area of a good school.

The additional spending will be worth it if the location of a higher priced property improves the

chances of children being admitted to a particular school, according to Mouseprice director Selwyn Lim.

He advised parents that it is also worth considering the life-time value of such an investment.

Mr Lim explained: "That premi-

um doesn't actually sound like that much if that is to be spread across the entire schooling age of a child or 2.4 children [per family] on average. It doesn't translate to that much money per child per year if you divide it."

Nationwide reported that parents are prepared to pay an extra 4.6 per cent – £8,670 – for a property in a good school catchment area.

A ten per cent pass rate in Sats also adds a 3.3 per cent premium to a property in a particular area.

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Kearsney 01304 823714

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New Romney 01797 363194

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Brookland £265,000

Three bedroom detached chalet style house. Lounge, Dining room which could be used as a fourth bedroom. Kitchen & garden. Off road parking for one car.

Kearsney Office

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Dover £300,000

Five bedroom house. Lounge with French doors opening onto balcony, study, kitchen, conservatory with doors opening onto lawn.

Dover Office

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Dover Offers in excess of £90,000

Mid terrace home with two separate reception rooms to the ground floor, a single storey extension which provides a ground floor bathroom and three bedrooms of which one is interconnecting.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Folkestone Guide Price £160k to 170k

Three bedroom semi detached Lounge, dining room and kitchen to the ground floor and three bedrooms with family bathroom to the first floor.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



River Offers in excess of £170,000

Three bedroom terraced cottage. Lounge, kitchen/diner with access to the rear garden which backs directly onto the River Dour.

Kearsney Office

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Dover Offers in excess of £250,000

Four bedroom detached family home. Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom with separate w.c. Gardens with off street parking leading to garage.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Romney Marsh £180,000

Tucked away in a cul de sac on the ever popular "Tree Estate" of St Marys Bay is this well presented two bedroom semi detached bungalow on a sizeable corner plot.

New Romney Office

01797 363194



Dover Offers in excess of £120,000

End of terrace house, three bedrooms. Lounge leading to access to the cellar and the kitchen. Garden with decked area.

Dover Office

01304 207099



Folkestone £299,995

Grade II listed Edwardian building. Four bedrooms, f/kitchen, bathroom and bay fronted lounge with balcony overlooking from the side elevation with picturesque views across the leas & the sea beyond.

Folkestone Office

01303 250757



St. Marys Bay £200,000

1950's Three bedroom detached bungalow. Large rear garden. Conservatory. Off road parking. Garage.

New Romney Office

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Bairstow eves

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Countrywide

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806

£150,000



Set in the popular Crabble location on the outskirts of Dover, Bairstow Eves are pleased to present to the market this three bedroom semi detached property offering a good sized family home.

The property is set over two floors with a lounge, fitted kitchen and dining room with double doors leading to a patio area and terraced rear garden with lawn.

The first floor comprises two double bedrooms and a single bedroom plus a family bathroom.

The property also boasts part central heating and double glazing throughout, as well as a garage for one car in Carlsden Road, offering easy parking for the property.

Your early viewing is highly recommended to appreciate all this property has to offer.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£155,000



Viewing is highly recommended of this semi-detached property on a corner plot in the popular residential location of Cheriton with its range of shops and schooling and good access links to both motorways and train stations.

The property comprises lounge and kitchen diner with french doors to the garden on the ground floor whilst upstairs are 3 bedrooms and the family bathroom.

There is approximately 50 feet of garden to the rear and side pedestrian access.

The property further benefits from double glazing and central heating.

Call now to book your appointment to view.



EYTHORNE

Dover 01304 201806



£300,000

Quiet and pretty cul de sac location. Detached. Four bedrooms. Ensuite. Two floors. Downstairs wc. Garden. Patio. Vegetable plot. Double glazing.



Central heating system.

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FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



OFFERS OVER £150,000

The property has a bay fronted living/dining room with French doors to the kitchen. Two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property is



bright and airy and should be put high on your viewing list to be fully appreciated.

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806



OIEO £120,000

This two bedroom property is offered to the market chain free and has been recently refurbished throughout. With a brand new fitted kitchen, brand new



bathroom suite as well as new decoration and flooring throughout.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



£200,000

Four bedroom Victorian house with accommodation comprising hallway, living room, second reception room,



rear garden and open plan to kitchen. Rear garden, off road parking & garage/playroom.

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806



37 Anselm Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0DF
 Notice of Offer

By order of the mortgagees in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £55,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer to be made either prior to exchange of contracts or within the next 7 days which ever is sooner.

WHITFIELD

Dover 01304 201806



£200,000

Four to five bedroom town house to the market, set within the recent Abbey Homes development on the outskirts of Whitfield with easy access to schools.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



OIEO £110,000

Two bedroom ground floor maisonette with a 60ft rear garden! This property is situated in an elevated position with far reaching views over Folkestone and out to sea.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



£135,000

NO CHAIN. Two bedroom first floor flat. Open plan living space and modern kitchen. The living area has large bay window, bathroom and storage cupboard.

CANTERBURY

Folkestone 01303 259211



£250,000

Two bedroom semi detached bungalow in semi rural setting. Lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, bathroom, ample off road parking, garage.

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BETHANY HOUSE CARE HOME

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to join our team in caring for 15 physically disabled adults.

The candidate should be a 1st level Nurse and have a management qualification or be willing to work towards one.

Tel: 01303 872289 for more information and an application form.

All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.

Care Assistants

(Day and Night Shifts)

Location: New Romney

Salary: £ on experience (Night shift rates are higher)

Contract: Contract

Hours: Any (will include night shifts)

Contact: Adam Hutchison at: adam@belmontsandbanks.co.uk or Tel: 01797 366810 for more information

Local care home group is looking for day and night shift care assistants. Competitive rates of pay dependent on experience and qualifications in the industry. Although this is not essential.

Jobs are available within our care homes and day care centre for elderly people with Alzheimer's and Dementia. Duties include providing personal care, assisting residents throughout the night and day and assisting at mealtimes. Applicants must be 18+, some care experience would be an advantage as would NVQ Level 2, although training can be offered. Successful applications are required to provide enhanced disclosure. Further details of hours and rates of pay can be discussed on application.



The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Plaster Technician

To join our Flexi Bank
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The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com or jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Advanced Skills Lecturer in Civil Engineering Ref: P0333

Salary: £40,512 per annum
Maidstone

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in leading the development of Civil Engineering programmes across the Faculty of Design and Construction. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold a Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 20 August 2010

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD THE WEEK COMMENCING 30 AUGUST 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



Community Drug Workers

1 x full time East Kent
1 x full time 6 month temporary contract East Kent
1 x full time 9 month temporary contract East Kent
1 x part time 6 month temporary contract West Kent

£21,519 – £27,849 per annum pro rata
Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239 per annum pro rata

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable. A qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example is essential. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. Alternatively, you can email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 695.

Closing date: 20 August 2010 at 5.00pm
Interview date: 9 September 2010 in Ashford.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

Progressive, Responsive, Effective



Named Drug Workers (YOT)

Medway – 37 hours per week
£21,519 - £27,849, plus an Essential Car User Allowance up to £1,239

This post includes managing a caseload of young people (10 – 18 yrs) who are involved in the Youth Offending Service and are misusing drugs and/or alcohol and experiencing complex difficulties. These may include concerns around mental health safeguarding homelessness, offending and chaotic substance misuse.

We are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working with young people presenting with complex needs. Possession of, or working towards, a relevant professional qualification is essential.

For an application form please visit our website www.kca.org.uk, email recruitment@kca.org.uk or telephone 01795 590795 Option 3. Please quote ref 698.

Closing date: 26 August 2010
Interview date: 7 September 2010

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

Progressive, Responsive, Effective



Following the recent merger of West Kent College and South Kent College, we are looking forward to an exciting future of growth and development. Combining the resources, commitment and ambition of our teams, the new College has campuses stretching right across Kent, from Ashford, Dover and Folkestone to Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Would you like to make a real contribution to Further Education? We are looking for individuals experienced in their profession to join us who have a passion for learner achievement and success. We currently have the following opportunities available:

- **Lecturer in Catering**
(Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Dover
- **Lecturer in Public Services**
(Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Folkestone
- **Lecturer in Trowel Trades**
(Fixed term until 31/07/11) Variable hours - Ashford
- **Lecturer in ESOL**
18.5 hours per week - Folkestone
- **Lecturer in Motor Vehicle**
37 hours per week - Dover
- **Lecturer in Sports & Sports Massage**
29.6 hours per week - Folkestone

If you feel any of these roles are the challenge you are looking for please visit our website for full details: www.southkent.ac.uk or contact us for an application pack: 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone); email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for these posts is 12pm, Monday 23rd August 2010.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



New College coming soon

COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

We require part time
for Ashford Area and the Marsh.
Applicants must have their own vehicle.
We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends.
We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Additional Learning Support Tutor/Assessor Ref: P0557

Salary: £24,792 - £28,311 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to assist with learning support for students with additional learning support needs. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate experience in and knowledge of tutoring, assessing and supporting learners with difficulties and disabilities. The successful candidate will hold a recognised assessing certificate.

Lecturer in Hair

Ref: P0496

26 hours per week Salary: £25,181 - £27,881 pro rata Fixed Term Maternity Cover Medway

We have an exciting opportunity to recruit a passionate individual to teach, assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. Please note, hourly paid roles are also available. Please indicate when submitting your application which post you are applying for.

Hourly Paid Facilitators

Ref: SE896

Salary: £8.96 - £11.26 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway/Maidstone

We are looking to recruit sessional facilitators to join our successful Foundation Learning Team, working with students who have learning difficulties/disabilities. The ideal candidates will have experience of working with young people and are able to offer hours to suit the College timetables.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 25 August 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

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MOVEMENTS) AMENDMENT No 3 ORDER 2010**

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the effect of making the following roads or lengths of road one way.

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Trimworth Road, from the junction with Chart Road to the junction with Cheriton Road - north to south

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.dover.shepway@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 9 September 2010.

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About us

KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces kentnews.co.uk and yourkentTV, an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspaper division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

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Battling Stupples puts up a sterling effort in defence of Welsh title

GOLF

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

KAREN Stupples staged a decent defence of her S4C Wales Ladies Championship of Europe by finishing fifth at the weekend.

The 37-year-old left her best round for last, carding a three-under-par 69 to finish one-under for the tournament at Conwy Golf Club. Her total of 287 was five behind eventual winner, Lee-Anne Pace from South Africa.

The event was Stupples' last in Europe before returning home to Florida to resume her season on the LPGA Tour. It was by far the most successful of the three tournaments the Deal golfer played in, following a missed cut at the Women's British Open and joint 43rd at the Evian Masters.

Windy conditions in north Wales made the first day an exercise in damage limitation as just three of the 138-strong field broke par. In the context, Stupples' four-over-par round of 76 represented a solid start.

Day two was little better and three bogeys in the opening seven holes left Stupples in danger of missing the cut. Birdies at the ninth, tenth and 12th changed the momentum and although another dropped shot swiftly followed, Stupples picked up two more shots to card a one-under-par 71.

A mixed third round ended strongly with two birdies in the closing three holes to seal another 71, although Pace's 67 meant Stupples began Sunday's final round six shots adrift of the lead.

A dropped shot at the fifth was more than cancelled out by an eagle at the par five ninth hole, but despite back-to-back birdies at the 11th and 12th it was not enough to mount a serious challenge.

Stupples returns to action on Friday at the Safeway Classic in North Plains, Oregon.



CLOSE CALL: Karen Stupples came fifth in defence of the S4C Welsh Ladies Championship title that she won last year

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Deal Victoria & Barns Close 1st XI v Farningham

PROMOTION is now Deal Victoria's to lose as they took advantage of some dry weather to crush basement side Farningham by 150 runs.

With their closest rivals for second place either losing or having their game washed out, the victory put Deal 13 points clear of third place with a game in hand.

Consistent batting put the hosts in a great position, with Robbie Brannan top scoring on 58 not out. Farningham took a step closer to the Regional League by collapsing to 91 all out, as Ryan Taylor took 4 for 27.

Deal Victoria & Barns Close 1st XI

	Runs
Andrew Furness	ct Freedman b Tahir
Ben Smith	ct Tahir b Wiles
Austen Marsh	lbw b Freedman
Shane Beu	ct Freedman b Butler
Robbie Brannan	not out
Stephen Moran	ct Wiles b Hutchins
Andrew Miller	ct Butler b Wiles
Leigh Walker	not out
Scott McNamara	did not bat
Graham McNamara	did not bat
Ryan Taylor	did not bat
Extras	(1b 8lb 3w 1nb)
Total	(6 wickets, 50 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Hadleigh Wiles	15	2	49	2
Paul Fensom	6	0	30	0
Mobeen Tahir	11	2	49	1
Matthew Freedman	12	3	64	1
Oliver Butler	3	0	18	1
George Hutchins	3	0	22	1

Farningham 1st XI

	Runs
Graham Freedman	ct Taylor b Moran
Robert Short	c&b Moran
George Hutchins	b S McNamara
Hadleigh Wiles	ct S McNamara b Taylor
Matthew Freedman	ct Moran b Taylor
Oliver Butler	lbw b G McNamara
Paul Fensom	lbw b Taylor
Mobeen Tahir	b Taylor
Paul Bensley	not out
Alan Freedman	lbw b G McNamara
Extras	(5b 3lb 3w)
Total	(all out, 28.4 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Scott McNamara	10	2	30	1
Stephen Moran	6	1	19	2
Ryan Taylor	8	2	27	4
Graham McNamara	4.4	0	7	2

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE 1B EAST

Hythe Green League XI v New Romney & Littlestone League XI

NEW Romney & Littlestone virtually guaranteed their safety from relegation with a 49-run win against Hythe Green, who slipped to the bottom as a result.

Daniel Anderson was the only batsman on either side to master the conditions, hitting 59 to get New Romney's innings away to a good start. Useful contributions from his team-mates saw the visitors reach a respectable 176 for 7.

Everton White took three wickets to put a dent in Hythe Green's reply. The hosts were always up against it and eventually finished up well short of victory on 127 for 9.

New Romney & Littlestone League XI

	Runs
Daniel Anderson	lbw b Hunt-Cooke
Jeremy Brown	ct Moloney b A Smith
Lee Smith	b M Smith
Rob Liddell	b A Smith
Lewis Unwin	ct A Smith b M Smith
Amar Gudhika	st Cave b M Smith
Zahid Ahmad	not out
Adam Lindsey	ct Hunt-Cooke b M Smith
Spencer Lawrence	did not bat
Casey Williams	did not bat
Everton White	did not bat
Extras	(9b 1lb 3w)
Total	(7 wickets, 40 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Alan Smith	9	1	41	2
James Rose	4	0	20	0
Jack Diwell	7	1	34	0
James Whybrow	9	2	16	0
Martin Smith	9	2	32	4
Rob Hunt-Cooke	6	0	20	1

Hythe Green League XI

	Runs
Philip Rose	ct Liddell b White
Steve Cave	ct Anderson b Smith
Tom Moloney	st Lawrence b White
Martin Smith	ct Ahmad b Smith
Joseph Moloney	b White
Jack Diwell	b Brown
N Hasseldine	not out
James Whybrow	ct Lawrence b Liddell
Rob Hunt-Cooke	b Liddell
Alan Smith	st Lawrence b Brown
James Rose	not out
Extras	(3b 9lb 1lw)
Total	(9 wickets, 40 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Lee Smith	10	2	23	2
Everton White	10	4	25	3
Rob Liddell	6	0	32	2
Jeremy Brown	7	2	17	2
Stephen Moran	3	0	5	0
Amar Gudhika	3	2	8	0
Daniel Anderson	1	0	3	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Hythe 1st XI v Harvel 1st XI

RELEGATION drew nearer for Hythe on Saturday as they lost by five wickets to Harvel, the only side below them in the Division One table.

Hythe made a slow start but Dan Furnival hit 109 to restore the balance. Ably supported by Sam Butler's 46, the pair guided Hythe to 215 for 7, which in the circumstances looked a decent score.

Harvel had won just once in the league all season before last weekend, but they looked like a team in form as their openers set up a straightforward victory.

Hythe 1st XI

	Runs
Christopher Maurice	ct Darby b Marrable
Lochan Blunden	b Marrable
Jon Smith	ct Saunders b Bailey
James Morgan	b Bailey
Leon Watson	ct Seven b Ashdown
Tim Pichowski	ct Forward b Bailey
Dan Furnival	run out
Sam Butler	not out
Jago Pearson	did not bat
Stefan Pichowski	did not bat
Andrew Maurice	did not bat
Extras	
Total	(7 wickets, 50 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Desmond Bailey	15	3	51	3
James Rose	14	6	35	2
Dominic Ashdown	11	0	76	1
Dominic Saunders	7	0	28	0
David Walker	3	0	19	0

Harvel 1st XI

	Runs
David Walker	lbw b Blunden
Daniel Walker	ct Watson b Furnival
Jesse Seven	lbw b Blunden
Dominic Saunders	b Blunden
Robert McSweeney	b Blunden
Philip Darby	not out
Desmond Bailey	not out
James Marrable	did not bat
Dominic Ashdown	did not bat
Fraser Forward	did not bat
Alastair Saunders	did not bat
Extras	
Total	(5 wickets, 48.3 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Andrew Maurice	8	1	37	0
James Watson	4	0	22	0
Lochan Blunden	12.3	2	46	4
Jago Pearson	6	0	33	0
Stefan Pichowski	4	0	21	0
Dan Furnival	14	0	53	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 2ND XI

Dartford 2nd XI v Sandwich Town 2nd XI

A DISAPPOINTING batting display saw Sandwich Town 2nds lose their top of the table clash against Dartford 2nds by six wickets.

The margin of defeat would have been even more emphatic but for a superb unbeaten 66 from John Ewart, who finished with almost half the team's score of 135, which at least gave Sandwich's bowlers a chance.

Hopes of victory receded as Dartford's top order made runs. Colin Aldred took two wickets, but it did nothing to change the momentum of the game and the home side wrapped up the win with almost five overs to spare.

Sandwich Town 2nd XI

	Runs
Michael Beaumont	ct Birring b Gray
Scott Blackman	ct Webb b Partridge
Rhys Jones	ct Webb b Gray
John Ewart	not out
Tamsin Beaumont	ct Rampersad b Partridge
Gary Burgess	lbw b Lucking
James Bolt	b Collier
Kevin Beaumont	st Hallam b Collier
Liam Evans	ct Fitzgerald b Lucking
Jack Bradley	run out
Colin Aldred	run out
Extras	(6b 12lb 7w 2nb)
Total	(all out, 36 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Craig Partridge	12	3	31	2
Lee Gray	12	4	26	2
Callum Lucking	6	0	20	2
Mark Baker	2	0	19	0
Mark Collier	4	0	21	2

Dartford 2nd XI

	Runs
Sunny Birring	run out
Ross Hallam	ct Ewart b Aldred
Gregg Dassrath	lbw b Aldred
Mark Baker	ct Beaumont b Evans
James Fitzgerald	not out
Kevin Webb	not out
Lee Gray	did not bat
Randy Rampersad	did not bat
Mark Collier	did not bat
Craig Partridge	did not bat
Callum Lucking	did not bat
Extras	(5b 1lb 2w)
Total	(4 wickets, 31.1 overs)

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Jack Bradley	7	0	25	0
Liam Evans	11.1	0	54	1
Colin Aldred	9	4	23	2
Kevin Beaumont	4	0	28	0

Whites start with a win to get title charge under way

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Woking 0

Dover Athletic 1

Charles 55



A CONFERENCE South title push is a realistic target for Dover Athletic after their opening day triumph at promotion hopefuls Woking.

A bizarre goalkeeping error from Lenny Pidgeley gifted new signing Elliott Charles a debut goal early in the second-half to earn a 1-0 win for Dover in an end-to-end opening day tussle at Kingfield.

The Whites dominated the game for large parts, hitting the bar twice and Jon Wallis had a penalty saved by Pidgeley after 20 minutes.

After failing to capitalise on a number of chances, Dover took the lead in a strange fashion ten minutes into the second-half. Pidgeley, who had pulled off a string of stunning saves earlier in the game, went from hero to zero as he failed to shield the ball out for a goal kick. The former Chelsea stopper was tackled on the byline by Adam Birchall, who rolled the ball across the six-yard box for Charles to poke into the net.



WINNER: Elliott Charles made most of Woking keeper's error to get Dover off to a winning start and open his account

Dover were forced to put their bodies on the line to deny Woking an equaliser as the home side battled back, but they did just enough to record a win.

Hayes, who felt the scoreline flattered Woking, was delighted with the result and judging on the performance from his side he believes they will be involved in the title race.

Hayes said: "It's put to bed some of the demons of last season against Woking which we have spoken about. Adam's (Birchall) chased a lost cause and from all the chances we created, we end up scoring from something

Dover Athletic starting XI



Subs used: Welford (Charles 83) Hill (Rice 89)

we had no right to score from. It was deserved and to be honest we could have had three or four.

"Everybody says they want to finish better than last season so that has put me under more pressure this season. The main target is to be in one of those top five places come the end of the season. I don't see any reason why we cannot fight for that top spot."

The Whites welcomed a new face in the dugout on Saturday with former Southend manager Steve Tilson filling in for assistant manager Paul Joynes, who is away on holiday. Tilson, who spent seven years in charge of Southend, is a close friend of Hayes and is expected to remain in the dugout for this Saturday's home game against Staines Town.

Hayes said: "He can talk to the lads. They will respect what he has to say and maybe he will see things I won't. It's a bonus to have him and the lads will enjoy working with him."

The Whites were in action last night for their first Kent derby at home to Welling. Log on to www.yourdover.co.uk for a report and reaction.

FOOTBALL



THREADBARE SQUAD: Folkestone boss Neil Cugley

Staying up is our aim, says Cugley

SURVIVAL is the main goal for Folkestone Invicta as they begin their Ryman Premier season at home to Croydon Athletic on Saturday.

The Seaside's threadbare squad won an unlikely promotion from Ryman South via the play-offs last season, but unlike this weekend's opponents they have not spent big this summer. With the club focusing on paying off their debts, the side which lines up on Saturday will be similar to last season.

Croydon mark the start of a tough opening run of games for Invicta, which include fellow promotion hopefuls Sutton United, Tonbridge Angels and Lowestoft Town.

Neil Cugley, Folkestone's manager, admitted it will be a tough campaign.

He said: "If I'm being 100 per cent honest, staying up is our aim. We'd like to finish higher but it would be an achievement considering where the club was."

Invicta are without Micheal Everitt and Rob Kember (suspended), Josh Burchell (unavailable), plus Ollie Bartrum and James Everitt, who are not fit, for the opening game.

Hythe and Deal to square up in the cup

FOOTBALL

Hythe Town 4 Bookham 0 Deal Town 3 Sandhurst Town 0

THERE will be a local derby in the FA Cup later this month as Hythe Town and Deal Town won their opening ties to set up a meeting with each other.

Both clubs enjoyed relatively comfortable afternoons in the extra-preliminary round, banking the £750 prize money. The reward is an all-Kent League preliminary round tie at the Charles Sports Ground on Saturday, August 28.

If Hythe boss Scott Porter was looking for a response from his side after their opening day league defeat at VCD Athletic, he got one. The home side took the lead six minutes before the

break when Brendon Cass headed home to open his account for the club.

Gary Mickelborough doubled the advantage ten minutes into the second-half, firing low into the corner from the edge of the penalty area.

Town laid siege to Bookham's goal for most of the second-half, but did not add to their tally until the closing stages when Billy Somerville and Lee Shearer netted.

Deal's victory at home to Sandhurst saw goalkeeper Brad Ashmore make a number of superb saves to keep the visitors out.

Strikes by Mo Takaloo, Roy Guiver and an Aaron Robinson penalty sent the home fans away happy.

Both clubs return to Kent League action on Saturday, with Hythe taking on Corinthian at Reachfields, while Deal are away to Greenwich Borough.



ON TARGET: Hythe Town's Brendon Cass (in red/white)

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